Acknowledgments not to be accepted till friend satisfied page 86
To deal in season, and not bring old offences to stop Marg. &c 161
Transgressions after Repentance, not to be remembered &c 85
Friends Spirits — subjected to be fit to speak in Publick 152
warmths to be guarded against 154
Signing Military Commissions forbid 120
Differences happen friends of ye meeting to take care thereof 10
To be disowned for refusing to arbitrate after Chosen 11
151 monthly meetings in England & Wales 2
Drowsiness spoke against 57
Plays and Sports &c 59
Concerning settling against Transgressors 156 157 161 9 11 12 85
School Masters & mistresses to [illegible] plainness be among their Scholars 172
not to oppose in meets of Worship &c 206
Gold Chains necklaces &c forbid 232-23
To Deal privately with ministers before ye meeting be required 263
Wife and Children to belong where the Husband &c dies after Decease &c

abt 212 full pages

Christian & Brotherly Advices

given forth from time to time,

by the

Yearly Meeting

in

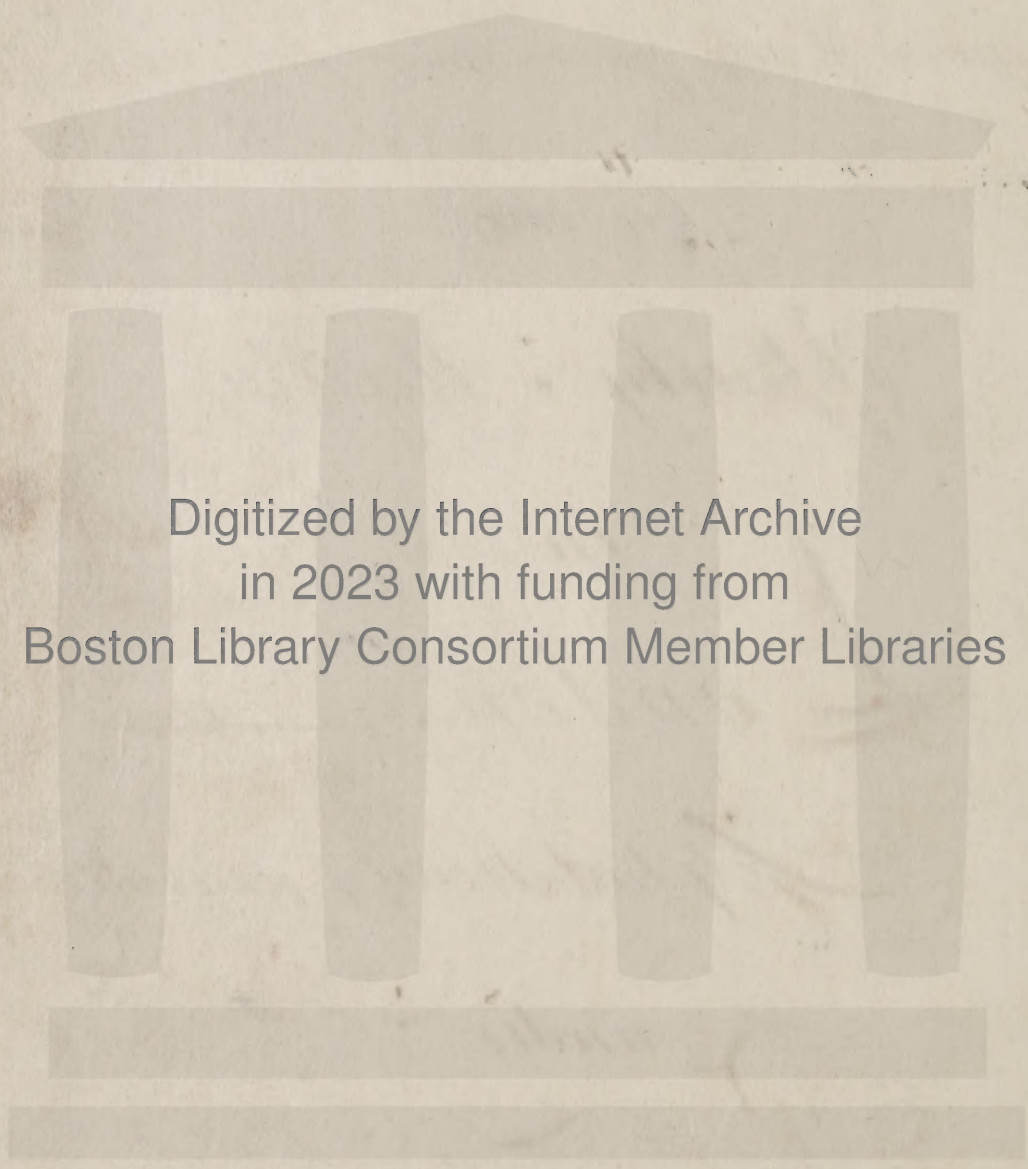
London.——

Alphabetically digested,

under

Proper Heads.——

Transcribed & Examined by
John Pope of Boston New Eng: 1762.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2023 with funding from
Boston Library Consortium Member Libraries

https://archive.org/details/disciplinechrist9024newe

A Table of the several Heads.

No		Page
1	Appeals.	1
2	Arbitrations.	9
3	Books.	21
4	Certificates.	31
5	Children.	35
6	Conversation.	53
	Convinc'd persons	91
7	Correspondents.	65
8	Covetousness.	75
9	Days.	79
10	Defamation.	81
11	Discipline.	85
12	Disputes.	97
	Dunkers.	99
13	Epistles.	101
14	Families.	105
	Free Masons	110
15	Fighting.	111
16	Kings & Governours.	115
17	Lam.	125
18	Love.	129
19	Marriage.	135
20	Meeting-Houses.	145
21	Meet.s for Discipline.	157
	Meetings for Sufferings	167
22	Meet.s for Worship.	171
	Members omitted	179
23	Ministry. Meet.s of Ministers	181
24	Mourning.	185
25	Negroes.	189
26	Oaths.	193

No		Page
27	Orphans.	195
28	Parliament.	197
29	Persecution.	199
30	Plainness.	203
31	Poor.	215
32	Preachers.	231
33	Prisoners.	245
34	Questions.	247
35	Records.	253
36	Removals and Settlements.	263
37	Representatives.	269
38	Salutations.	273
39	Schools.	277
40	Scriptures.	281
41	Servants.	295
42	Singing.	297
43	Steeplehouse Rates.	299
44	Stock National.	301
45	Sufferings.	305
46	Tale-bearing &c.	315
	Testimonies &c	319
47	Tithes.	325
48	Tombstones.	329
49	Trading.	341
50	Wills.	353
51	Yearly Meeting.	357

Appeals.

Concerning Appeals.

1727

1727 This Meeting agrees that for the time to come a Committee be yearly chosen at the opening thereof immediately after the Clerk is chosen to keep of the Papers of Appeals that shall be offered to this Meeting all Appeals which they shall judge proper to bring before them and report their opinion thereof to the Appellation Respecting at the Commencement of this Meeting. And that no Deputy of any City or County from which an Appeal shall come be admitted a Member of that Committee to receive Appeals.

And whereas it is inconvenient that the time of Appeals should be unlimited. It is therefore agreed by this Meeting that if any Person or Persons shall think himself or themselves injured or aggrieved by the Monthly Six Weeks or other Meetings of which he she or they were a Member [illegible] Appeal [illegible] Monthly Meeting to which such Meeting belongs [illegible] Monthly Six Weeks or other Meeting to which they belong [illegible] Appeal [illegible] Months [illegible] Notice given and the Appeal be lodged in such Quarterly Meeting within six Months after such Notice.

And if any Person or Persons be aggrieved with the Judgment given by any Meeting they may appeal from such Judgment to the Yearly Meeting to be held next after the said Quarterly Meeting if there be time to appeal within six Months after the Judgment of said Quarterly Meeting be given and such Appeal be brought to the next Yearly Meeting if it may with convenience to be next following after it.

And if any Monthly Six Weeks or other Meeting do not bring any Quarterly Meeting but be immediately to Members of the Yearly Meeting that then persons appealing from the Judgment of such Meeting shall give notice to the said Meeting of their intentions to

Appeal

Appeals

1727 Appeal within two Months after the Judgment given in shall duly be heard at their Appeal at the ensuing Yearly Meeting if it may conveniently be done: if not in the Yearly Meeting that shall next follow after it.

Persons not pursuing these directions debarred.

And that all Persons testified against not pursuing the Directions here given with respect to the time of giving notice of their Appeals shall be debarred from any right of appealing afterwards.

1728

1728 In order to put the directions of last Yearly Meeting into Practice respecting Appeals it is now agreed that twelve Cities or Counties as they stand alphabetically in the Correspondent Book do each for themselves name one of their Members who are to constitute that Committee for this Year except as before excepted: and in like manner next Year twelve Cities or Counties as they stand next alphabetically in the Correspondent Book are each for themselves to name one of their members to constitute that Committee in the same manner as is now directed every Year until all the Cities & Counties have had their nomination which being finished the Correspondent Book is to be begun again.

Method for choosing the Committee.

And that the Service of this Committee may be as little burthensome as possible to the Friends that compose it it shall happen as it is desired and directed that all Appeals which shall be brought from any Person or Place shall be laid with the Clerk of the Meeting for the time being at the preceding meeting of the sixth Day of the Week in the sitting of Meeting.

Appeals to be laid before the Committee &c.

And it is appointed that at the rising of the Meeting on the same Afternoon on the sixth day of the Week the Clerk for the time being shall read over the names of the Persons of the Committee of Appeals and if any appeal stands before them on the next

of

1728 (if such there be) and deliver the same unto them requesting them to proceed thereon according to the Advice of this Meeting & that any Person of the said Committee or both so chosen shall have power to Act according to the Direction of the above mentioned Minute. And it is the Agreement of this Meeting that no Member of any City or County against whom an Appeal may be made be admitted a Member of said Committee.

Any Person to Act

1733

Sept. This Meeting taking into their serious Consideration some Inconveniencies that may attend the nominating proper persons to hear and judge of the Sufficiency of Appeals brought before this Meeting to give Relief for the time to come, in Cases of any County from whence or against whom such Appeals may come, it will be requisite proper to be nominated Besides that this Meeting proceed to a nomination of such persons in the several Counties, and that such Counties as are omitted for the reason aforesaid, be first called on next year.

Appeal from any County or against any Person

1736

Sept. And that Friends in the Spirit of the Gospel, which is Peace on Earth and Goodwill to all Men, Labour to maintain the Discipline of the Church, wherein they will be favoured with Wisdom prudently to determine Affairs that may come before them, and be Instrumental to prevent many unnecessary Appeals coming to this Meeting which tend to weaken it & give Occasion to Strife. And it is earnestly desired that all Friends who are proper Members of the Society, especially such who are Qualified for Service, would be careful to support the Meeting for the Discipline of the Church.

To prevent Appeals coming

See Arbitrations, Anno 1720. pa. 13.

1740

Sept. Whereas it is apprehended that the Minute concerning Appeals made in 1727, may leave room for some to conclude, that on due notice being once given by the Appellant or Appellants, to the Meeting against which he she or they may Appeal that he she or they may be at liberty without any further notice, to bring the same Appeal before the Yearly Meeting succeeding, or that which follows this Meeting

Notice to Appeals to be given

orders

Appeals.

1705 Orders to prevent Disputes that may arise on that Head that if any Appellant or Appellants do not bring his her or their Appeal to the Yearly Meeting ensuing the notice being or ought to be given that he she or they continue their Appeal notice shall be repeated in writing to the Meeting against which he she or they may Appeal, at least three Months preceding the Yearly Meeting.

And it is agreed by this Meeting to prevent its being troublesome with a repetition of Appeals that no Appeal shall be received at any Time which hath been once Determined here.

No Appeal to be received a second time →

6.

Advice

1772 — It is the Consistancy of the Members of this Society for Joining themselves with those called Freemasons in case Established upon And According to our present Judgment think it is not Consistant with our Religious profession And Advise that Quarterly & Monthly Meetings disunade their Members therefrom; And if any continue therein or Join therewith contrary to the advice herein contained that they be dealt with as such who Refuse the Advice of Said

Arbitrations.

Or Concerning Arbitrations.

1687

1687. Agreed that the chusing of Arbitrators is proper in Cases of Differences about Matters properly; but in Differences in Religion &c. the Rule of Christ is to Govern & they to be Trespass against Him &c Matt. 18: 15, 16, 17. the Church being Judge.

In what Cases Arbitrators to be chosen

1692

1692. Advised that in all Cases of controversy & Difference between Persons concerned therein either speedily compose the Difference between themselves, or make choice of some fit pers[on] or pers[ons] to determine the same, or else to chuse to their Determination or otherwise if they cannot agree upon the Choice to submit to the Monthly Meeting's Choice of certain persons meet to inquire into the Controversy, & to stand to their Award and final determination thereof. And such Controversies may not be continued to cause a Reproach or Grief as they are a great Shame and Scandal, and that care be taken for the speedy ending of all Controversies & Differences among Friends and all Suits at Law by & between parties with one or another for the prolonging thereof.

To chuse Arbitrators or to submit to the choice of the Mo. Meeting

All Controversies to be speedily ended

And such as refuse to be discovered

And such as refuse to submit to Arbitrators or to leave the Award of Arbitrators are to be discovered & Testimonies against according to Christs Doctrine on that behalf.

1693

1693. Advised that all Differences happening & growing between Friends concerning Debts or Accounts be speedily ended according to the Rules given in our last yearly Meeting Epistles: and if any doubtfull Point in Law be in the Case, then both Parties may advise with some well knowing in the Law: for if any Suit to be contentious we have no such Custom in the Churches of Christ.

In Doubtfull Point in Law

Tribulations.

1696 1696

Sd. to contain 11 Lines

Advised. that no Friends shall go from the order of Truth to sue one another at Law but by themselves or by reference, that all differences among Friends be speedily ended and not prolonged or delayed.

That Friends shun all Occasions of Strife or Debate and not to make a speedy end of all Differences that are or may happen among yourselves as much as in you is. So that according to the holy Apostles Doctrine read 1 Cor. 6. v. 1 to 8.

1697

1697 Whereas it sometimes happeneth to the Hurt of Truth & Grief of many Friends that Differences arise amongst such professing Truth about outward things. It is therefore by this Meeting thought Convenient and Advised that when any Friends or Friends shall have any such Difference between any Friends or that they be concerned that they forthwith speak to and tenderly advise the persons between whom the Difference is to make up speedy end of that Friends refuse to not comply with their advice that then they take to them one or two Friends more & agree about them & the then Difference and if they or either of them refuse them to let them know that it is the Advice and Counsel of Friends that they should each choose an equal number of indifferent impartial and prudent Friends to hear and speedily determine the same and that they bind themselves to stand to the Award Determination or the Award and determination of the Major part of them, that shall be made and signed by the Arbitrators Award and Arbitration made and signed by them or five of them be one agreed unto.

Also this Meeting doth advise that if any person professing the Truth among us do refuse to stand to the Award & Arbitration of Friends chosen as before mentioned to end the Difference as before

Friends between whom any difference may be

chose Arbitrators

Arbitrations.

Such as refuse to submit their Differences or to refer it are to be dealt with

May as before advised Complaint be made of that person or Persons unto the Monthly Meeting to which he doth belong and if after due notice he shall refuse so to refer his Case that the said Meeting do testify against such a Person as hath been but a Disorderly unruly and shall comply not with the good Methods & agreements of our Society: and by such his compliance doth declare that he is for Peace and doth seek and desire it. And when any person is so testified against by the Meeting as aforesaid the other person may have the liberty to seek his remedy against him at Law.

The Persons testified may sue at Law

Arbitrators not to decline long after they have accepted

And if any Difference that shall be offered to hear and determine any such Difference as aforesaid after they have accepted thereof and the Parties Differing are become bound to abide their determination that they decline and refuse to stand and act as Arbitrators that then such Persons so refusing be required to give the Reasons of their refusal and the Monthly Meeting to which they belong and if that Meeting shall not esteem those Reasons sufficient justly to excuse them, then the Meeting to oppose them to stand to what they have Accepted.

Continuing to act when testified against

And if after such admonition they shall evidence to refuse to stand as Arbitrators that then the Meeting do testify against them or either of them as such as are not subject to the just Rules of our Society neither ought to be admitted thereunto, and till he or they condemn & retract the same.

To avoid troubling Ministering Friends as Arbitrators

And it is the advice of this Meeting that Persons differing about outward things do as little as may be trouble public Ministering Friends with being Arbitrators in such Cases.

All persons differing to be reported to the Meeting they belong to

And that all persons differing be reported by the Monthly Meeting to which they belong when that Case is before them the Plaintiff & Defendant sign the Report & Persons is referred to stand to be the form the said Award which they have bound themselves to perform and if any shall refuse so to do

that

Exhibitions.

1695 That when the Monthly Meeting to which such persons doth belong upon notice thereof to them given shall Admonish him Accordingly, and after admonition he persist to refuse then the Meeting to testify against him therefor.

And to conclude it is the sense and Judgment of this Meeting that if any person professing truth shall attempt run or enter at Law any other person for any thing that is to be transacted in the Meetings herein before recommended that such person not therein desist from the Prosecution thereof unless he have any reason to the contrary whereupon he ought to be dealt with by the Meeting he belongs to therein, if he shall not give satisfaction to the Meeting for such his disorderly proceeding by condemning it and himself therein, that then he be disowned by the Meeting therefor.

1705

1705 In any difference depending or which shall arise between any persons professing truth amongst us it is advised and desired that effectual care in the Wisdom of God may be taken by Friends of the Meeting or Meetings to which such persons belong to put a full end to all such Quarrels either formerly arisen particularly in the year 1695.

1720

1720 The Report of the Friends appointed on the Minute of 1695 received with an Explanation which was several times read and finally accepted by the Meeting.

The Report & Explanation aforesaid are as followeth.

The Report

It is the Sense & Judgment of this Committee that the Minute of 1695 relating to Arbitrations is consistant with the Practice of our ancient Friends, and very serviceable for the preventing of Strife on such Occasions:

Yet

Exhibitions.

1720 Yet more general Rules upon any Doubt of Suspicions or Explanations are drawn Friends having Occasion some particular Cases wherein Difficulties may arise (which yet in Appearance is sufficiently provided for by the Authority power vested in the respective Mo. Mty & Quarterly Meetings) yet in condescention to those Friends we declare that as no Persons ought to be deserted without due Consideration of every Circumstance Meeting such Cases, & due Admonition by the Mo. Mty Meetings to the parties concerned so we hereby Advise that the several Meetings proceed with the utmost circumspection therein.

Name to be disowned without due consideration of the Circumstance.

And that if any Person so denied by any Monthly Meeting shall suppose he is not justly dealt with he shall have his liberty as in all other Cases amongst us to Appeal to the Quarterly Meeting, who after thorough examination of the Case, and all the Circumstances and proceedures attending it shall proceed to confirm or reverse the same as they in the fear and Wisdom of God shall see meet.

Liberty to Appeal

And whereas sometimes it so happens, that Persons under our profession have proved so base and unworthy as where they have run themselves into debt to endeavour prudently and honestly to remove themselves & their Effects to prevent Injustice thereby those Creditors who are Friends have been deprived of an opportunity of the common Benefit of Laws given people in this minute aforesaid, it is hereby declared that the last passage of the said Minute which positively directs to be so strictly observed is not intended to prevent such evil Persons in those Practices from being dealt with by a legal process as the nature of the Case may require, what circumstances the Mo. Mty and Quarterly Meetings are the proper Judges, so this not to be doubted but they will do justice to the parties concerned therein.

Whereas upon ye Dissatisfaction of several Friends with some parts of the Minute of this Meeting Anno 1719 relating to Solicitations of Differences about outward things, there were some Friends appointed to

Arbitrations

1720 read hear & consider the nine Minute in the 4th Sessation thereof and make report and are to signify the greater part of the Brethren appointed for that Service Nothing in their Report which being read did not prove Satisfactory to the Satisfaction of Friends as could have been desired.

Now this Meeting being fervently desirous, that the Unity of the Church and every Single Member thereof may as much as possible be preserved in all Cases of Controversie so much as may be removed both accept & record the Report above Mentioned with this further Explanation.

That so much of the Minute of 1697 before mentioned as doth relate simply to the entering into Bonds and so far as Arbitrations may be refused on account of Disputes & Questions in Law relating to Property or Estates in both these Cases that there be a particular and special regard had to the Nature and Circumstances of things it not being either now, nor at the time of making the said Minute the intent of this Meeting to lay any unwarrantable Burthen upon any Brother nor upon the Church of God.

And wish that due care be taken that all Offences, Trespasses and Differences be speedily tried & composed in Gods Wisdome according to Gospel Order among us either by mutual Forgiveness Christian Counsel or just Arbitration as the Case may require and Safely admit or allow: and the choice of Arbitrators and Umpires be of such just impartial. Men as neither Party can justly except against but both agree to their Choice.

1724

1724 Speedy ending of Differences by prudent and just Arbitrations again recommended.

1725

1725 Forasmuch as Notice hath by this Meeting been given with regard to the Honour of God and the Truth that the religious Reputation of our Society might be preserved from Blemish and all just occasion of Scandal and Offence be removed upon carefully [illegible]

are

Arbitrations.

1925 We desire that all Friends avoid as much as possible occasions of difference one with another but if notwithstanding such Contrary Difference shall happen to arise that then the Friends of that Meeting in the Compass whereof any such shall happen, take timely care to put an end thereto by advising & exhorting those between whom Difference may happen, to refer the Matter of their Difference to impartial & proper Arbitrators which may be a very easy Means of preventing to Law one with another, and to shew forth to the World that we love one another which is a distinguishing mark of being Christs Disciples.

Fritt to put an end to Differences

to prevent the Scandal of going to Law

1937

1937 And we do again remind you that Friends may be every where careful to get all differences about outward things speedily compromised either by Friendly Arbitrators without troubling Monthly or Quarterly Meetings with such Affairs or else that Friends were at all times ready to submit their Differences even with persons not of our persuasions to Arbitrations rather than contend at Law.

1944

1944 See Law page 126.

Books.

Acts Concerning Books.

1682

1682 A Committee of ten Friends appointed to see
A Committee to correct Books that Books be carefully corrected and that none be printed but by Friends order.

The Printer to give them or most of them notice when any Book is to be printed.

That no Bibles be sent to the Counties unsealed for.

That no second Edition be printed without order.

That the Printer send the Proof to the Counties before any be sent abroad.

1685

1685 Agreed, That the Quarterly Meetings return the
to 1692 Printer his Money once a Quarter for his further encouragement & assistance to carry on his Business.

1685

1685 Agreed that what ever Book is for time to come
writ by any Friend in Scotland, and printed here they shall take 200 of each Book to aide & forgive the Charge of so many Item.

1689

1689 Books to be delivered to the King & his Council
To be given by the Meeting for Sufferings p. 23. 24. 25 the Parliament and other Persons Magistrates or Governours within this Nation as also to Foreign parts begone the same as the Meeting for Sufferings shall from time to time direct & appoint.

1690 Agreed that the Meeting for Sufferings for
1690. vol. the time being do for the future take care to the respecting ordering and regulating the affairs and printing of Books.

One in whatsoever matter relating to printing of Books the County think themselves aggrieved that they write to the said Meeting who are to redress the same.

1680

1680 Agreed that the Matter of Books and Printing
To be kept within be left & referred to the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1693

Books.

1693

1693 This Meeting agrees for the taking off & printing Friends books for the service of Truth that such a number of Friends books as shall be hereafter printed by their appointment (excepting Collections of Books) be had off by each Quarterly Meeting as shall be amount to two books for each Monthly Meeting provided the two Books do not both exceed one Shilling in price & if any one Book be above the price Recommended of that sort to each Monthly Meeting the more may send for as many more as they have occasion for & pay for.

Price of a sort of Books not to exceed the price of 12d

To the Monthly Meetings

We understand there are about one hundred fifty one Monthly Meetings in England & Wales.

And that the said Books be sent by the several Correspondents in London, or by their order, ~~to the Correspondents in London or by their Order~~ to the Correspondents of each County who are desired to send up the money for the Books when received to the Friends that is Correspondents in London and to be diligent in spreading Friends Books for Truth's Service.

1692

1692 Agreed that those that print for Friends deliver to the Meeting for Sufferings for the use of the Correspondents of the Counties in England & Wales such a number of Books as they agree unto each Meeting within six Month after printed that are two of a sort for each Monthly Meeting not exceeding six pence for Book in one of a sort above six pence for Book.

Books to be kept in each Quarterly & Monthly Meeting for 1693

And it is advised by the Meeting that one Book at least of a sort that shall be printed except Collections be kept in each Monthly & Quarterly Meeting for the service of Friends and such as there shall be occasion for the future may thereby be recommended to the Quarterly & Monthly Meetings.

Books.

1695

1695 This Meeting agrees that it may be recommended from this Meeting to each Monthly Meeting in the Counties to take off the Books Just now newly printed to each Monthly Meeting under five shillings & six pence for one Year from this time and one to a Meeting that is above in that they be sent into the Counties Quarterly, about two weeks before each Quarter Day, by those Printers that print them.

And that no Book Sent out be kept in each Quarterly Meeting in the several Counties.

1697

1697 Friends in the several Counties in England are desired to be diligent to procure Friends Books that are Imprinted, that they may be kept there for the publick, about Ackworth Books in order that the service of them may be answered and the Printers are to be spoken to to print the Books in due time and not delay them till the Service be partly over.

This Meeting understanding that the Minute 1695 expired in 1697 with respect to printed Books at high prices do direct that all books that are written by such that are in unity with Friends that were then agreed to be accepted by the Monthly Meetings to which they are sent, and that each Monthly Meeting for the future do accept of two books of a sort that is sent unto them five shillings p. book till this Meeting order it otherwise.

1698

1698 This Meeting accepts that the Books sent to be sent yearly & sent to this Meeting for the Service of the Truth that each Quarterly Meeting pay unto the yearly Meeting for the Books sent to their Members they be sent to the yearly Meeting to which the Quarterly Meetings belong timely Notice thereof to each Quarterly Meeting preceding the yearly Meeting.

Books.

1702

1702 Agreed to recommend it to the Quarterly Meetings in the several Counties to appoint some publick Friends to read over such Books that are published in vindication of Truth & the Testimony of Friends against Adversaries in order that they may be better acquainted with the Controversies, and be prepared to vindicate the Doctrine & Testimonies, and obviate Objections.

1706

1706 Agreed that after the Morning Meeting of the respective Friends do use such necessity for to dispose of Books in Truths service gratis as they request the Meeting for Sufferings the Record Book as to the Quantity & Charge for their Company and before disposed of for that Service.

1709

1709 Agreed that Seth Britton be desired to send up an Account to the Meeting for Sufferings how many monthly Meetings they have in the prospect that they take off two Books of each for each monthly Meeting.

1710

1710 This Meeting desires the meeting for Sufferings to take care that the several Quarterly Meetings in England & Wales do take off and pay for all such Books as shall be found pursuant to the Yearly Meetings repeated Agreement.

1722

1722 It is agreed that the Meeting for Sufferings do distribute in such manner & to such parts of the World as they think proper, the Writings of such Friends as have been published by the consent of the Morning Meeting.

See 1679 1680

1723

Books.

1930

1930 Corpus of Books.

The Meeting for Sufferings have nominated John Davis, Samuel Lowe, Richard Mew and Joseph Elkinton with the right of such Copies of Friends Books as now are or shall be ordered to be printed for the Use of this Meeting; But this Meeting desires that the Meeting for Sufferings to take Care that the said Trustees may not have it in their power to dispose the said Copies but only in Trust for this Meeting.

Certificates.

Not Examining Certificates.

1695

1695 Desired that all Friends that remove from any part of England or Wales into Scotland carry Certificates from their respective Monthly Meetings to which they belong, that they may be informed what repute they are as to Truth and Friendship and also that no unnecessary and undue charge be brought upon Friends there.

To have Certificates on removing into Scotland

Friends removing from the Country to the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to have Certificates. See poor page 215. 216. 218. 220. 223. &c.

Or the Removals & Allowances in 1737 page 261. 262

Friends that travel in the work of the Ministry to have Certificates &c. Preachers p. 233. 234. 236.

1705

1705 See preachers page 239.

1708

1708 See Marriage page 158.

Children.

Concerning Children.

1688

1688 I do intreat and desire you as you are Parents Brethren and Sisters that are Governours of Families that ye diligently [illegible] your Children in the fear of God and [illegible] Generation of the Lord [illegible] to the Youngers sort, but also to use your power in your Families [illegible] to Children from the Cradle

not to indulge them

Servants in Modesty, Sobriety and in the fear of God, carefully shunning the extravagant humours in the youngones when it doth appear and not to indulge it nor allow of it for you are set in your Families as Judges for God, and it is you that must give an Account of the power committed to you and then you are a Libertine & Wanton spirit grow in your Children [illegible] for the want of Correction [illegible] & Instruction & Reproofs & Admonitions are [illegible] your Assistance and allowance without which it cannot yet [illegible] while they are under your Government.

Oh then let your Prayers be continually for your Children for the grace of God is the only means that can preserve them & Restrain them that they may not run into temptations & Idolatry & [illegible] Wrath yet it may [illegible] & then you shall bless God for you and you will reap the comfort of your Labour.

1689

1689 And [illegible] for the Lord to accept your Christian care for the Education of your Children in the fear of God in plainness & Simplicity for truth but in Language & Words.

1690

1690 Also Nothing [illegible] that Children may be rare but not to have [illegible] the Christian Names of Days & Months & Language & Fashions and that

Sin-

Children.

1690 Friends may be carefull of their Children to prevent School Masters and Mistresses that are Heathens as they are capable and to forewarn them to the World's shortest corrupt them by learning heathenish Customs and the names of those Gods that is to Children that they may learn them of in the Language of Truth. We that profess ourselves Christians ought to be very Sparing to have or not to buy for our Children or apparel Suitable to be destroyed in their Childhood to furnish them with such things that are not becoming our profession.

Dear Friends it is our Christian & earnest Advice and Counsel to all Friends concerned in this City or may be capable to provide School Masters and Mistresses that are faithfull Friends to teach and instruct their Children, not to send them to such Schools where they are taught the corrupt ways, Manners Fashions & Language of the World and of the Heathen in their Customs and Names of the heathenish Gods and Goddesses. Having recently to Exercise & admonish the Meeting of Children [illegible] as we are against the Customs and Corruptions of the World and to keep out of the Spirit of the World and to keep out of the Spirit of the World and to keep out of the Spirit

Children.

1695

1695 Ordered that [illegible] to be [illegible] Children
[illegible] of [illegible] Parents [illegible] their
[illegible] of [illegible] that they [illegible] may [illegible]
[illegible] in the [illegible] of [illegible]
them; see more in the same printed Epistles.

See Quarterly Mo. page 203.

1695 Being [illegible] to be ex-
cessive and [illegible] to corrupt & hurt one another
by evil Example and Liberty it is earnestly required
that all Parents carefully endeavour to take [illegible] Chil-
dren Care in the Education of their Children and
be good Examples to them, and not to allow them in
any thing that may gratify a vain Mind in Cloathing
Vain Apparel or Fashions Gaits or attire contrary
to Truth nor hurt and the reproach of
any Profession and endeavour their Preservation
& Judgment, what soever is against the Cross of
Christ, but earnestly to exhort them to
come to know them up in the practice & Exam-
ples of the Truth in Sobriety Modesty and Plain-
ness of Apparel Language & Conversation as be-
comes the Holy Profession of Christian Religion.

1696

1696 fo: 35. 36 Agreed that it be recommended to Friends to be
very careful in the Education of their Children and
that it be as much as possible by Exact Example
that such Children may grow Learning by what
they see not Precepts, they are often hurt by having
such things [illegible] and deeply into them that
have taken root in the hearts of Children and should
therefore be prevented.

To be trained up in Truths Way with as commendable Christ

We recommend to you that ~~that~~ are [illegible]
the [illegible] by the Light of Truth among
your Children, that they may be trained up in
[illegible] Education
according

Children.

1696 according to your Abilities that a peculiar Regard may be in the Life of Righteousness in our Families diligently inspecting that your Children & Servants do not neglect the Duty of Christianity & that you train them up in the Nurture & Admonition of the Lord that hath called you and the good & comfortable of our Children.

1697

1697 Being given to understand that Children
Exceptions to Friends are not brought up in the way of Truth as they ought to be & that Parents are not careful to put them Apprentices to honest Friends that they may be preserved in the way of Truth:

1700 1701 See Plainness, page 203.

1700

1700 Advised that all Parents be watchfull over their Children & not suffer them to get up into pride and excess, but to keep them to that decent plainness which becomes the people of God, that the Sin of the Children may not be upon the Parents nor they be exposed to ruin by the Parents neglect.

And that Friends of all degrees take due care to bring up their Children in the fear & nurture of the Lord & that they do not by their Example lead them into Vanity & Folly.

1701

1701 And Parents are again reminded to continue their Godly care and exercise their just authority

Children.

1708 authority and Commaund over their Children timely to restraine them from the Worlds Corruptions & Extravagancies, both in Word & Language Behaviour & Conversation that they may keep the way of the Lord & walk uprightly therein.

1706

1706 • Likewise to keep Children out of their mouthes Scurrilous & prophane Language, Rude & Uncivil behaviour.

1709

1709 • Alsoe that all Heads of Families especially such who are Elders in the Church of Christ be diligent and carefull to watch over the young generation that Idleness Slothfulness & Vanity may be discouraged & prevented and exemplarily reformed by you to them that the Liberty we have of our Youth take in following the Customs & Fashions of the World which tend to the Nakedness or reproach of the Testimony of the Lord's Truth may be discouraged and not encouraged in the same but all in the fear & Love of God that they may be more and more brought to Humility and subjection to the Lord & his Truths.

more in the same Epistle the plainness &c. 20th.

1710

1710 The Lord knows we would not have any of our dear Friends Children who are natural Branches of so pure Stock degenerate from that pure and tender plant that he has caused to grow in them or corrupted from Truths simplicity or innocency by the Spirit & ill Examples of any other Children which Friends who are Parents should take timely care to prevent.

1715

1715 That our Children may be preserved from the Wiles of Satan as much as in us lies, let a godly care & concern be upon the Minds of all Parents & Masters, with Application to the Lord that they may not be drawn away from the Innocency & Plainness of the way of Truth & Righteousness as Israel & Judah to reach the Witness in them that they

may

Children.

1715 may feel in their own Spirits, a degree of Fear & Reverence towards God, we instruct them to fear & serve his Name all the days they live: as the Tribe of Levi were required of God to teach his precepts diligently unto their Children, Deut. 6. v. 7. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy Children & shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine House, and when thou walkest by the way, & when thou lyest down, and when thou risest up.

To be yet concerned to acquaint them how the Lord [illegible] from the beginning of his merciful visitations to us, in order to bring us out of the Vain & Empty Ways, Language, & Customs, which while we in disobedience to him walked in, we could not enjoy true peace; but as we bore the Cross and Bowed to his Will, & [illegible] an Obedience of acceptance with him, in the use of all that now appears to be required, however singular it may seem to depart from the Scripture Language wherein is true propriety of Speech.

1714

1714 To be tender concerning the Education of Friends Children for which this Meeting hath often found a Concern, we therefore earnestly to recommend unto you the weighty Care that there is a Care in preserving them in Plainness of Speech & Habit, agreeable to our holy profession, & that no opportunity be omitted on any occasion wanting to instruct them in the Principle of Truth which we profess, that they may become sensible of the operation thereof in themselves may find, not only their [illegible] Spirits reproved & made sensible to receive the impressions of the divine Image, but may also from thence feel themselves under a necessity to appear then in the several Branches

Children.

1715 How Charitable & Necessary it is this will be most beneficial to them, being the Fruits of Conviction, so it is the most effectual way of propagating the same through the Church of Christ in these latter times (wherein their Spirits are more than at others disposed to have their Hearts inspired upon them) we desire that all Parents and others concerned in the oversight of Youth might not be backward to bind themselves thereby publickly for their Service that in his Wisdom they may make use of every such opportunity which the Lord shall put into their hands, and we hereby warn all Professors to flee all Appearance of Evil, and keep out of Temptation, by observing the more Solemn and Serious part of Life as Recommended in the Epistle 1715.

1723

1723 Advised and Desired that all Parents Masters and Mistresses of Families & Guardians of Minors that they prevent as much as in them lies their Children Servants and Youths under their respective Care and Tuition from the Reading of any Books or Papers that have any tendency to prejudice the profession of the Christian Religion or to encourage in them the least doubt or Question concerning the Truth of the holy Scriptures or those necessary and saving Truths declared in them, least their unsettled and feeble Minds should be poisoned therewith and so be led into Error for the present & Ever.

What Books are not to be allowed

1724

Children.

1724

1724 She Circumstances of our Youth having been again under our Consideration, we judge it Necessary to observe, that the undue Liberty too many of them take, both in their Conversation one with another as well as with those not of our Persuasion, hath been cause of Grief & Sorrow to us: Therefore we tenderly recommend to all Parents and such as may have care of Children, that they do as far as in them lies carefully inspect and narrowly enquire into the manner of their Conversation that where Correction or reproof may be wanting it may in the Spirit of Love & wise sound Judgment be given.

Inspect their conversation

1725

1725 And you who are Parents of Children, Labour fervently in the Spirit with Secret Supplications unto the Lord that he may give them an inheritance in the Truth wherein they may be enabled to shine in their Generation after you, to his praise and Glory rather than Labour to get great Inheritances for them in this World, which has proved a Snare and Temptation to many to cause them to forget the Glory of this present World; but that those to whom God hath given Riches may take the Apostles Advice that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but therewith be rich in good Works willing to communicate ready to distribute &c. that they may be an Example to their Children.

Labour for an inheritance in the Truth rather than in this World

1 Tim. 6. 17.

1729

1729 It might be to the great Concern of Parents as they value the Welfare of their Children and Posterity, to be careful how they suffer their Children to be corrupted by the Example of such as are apt to keep them from the Company for many have found by sad Experience the truth of that Saying

Children.

of the Apostle Paul Communication to the corrupt practices. See the Scriptures p. 283.

1638

1638 Inasmuch as we have a large body of Youth growing up in this Country & knowing that the hope of posterity lies much upon them,

Duty of Parents & Gardians concerning Children.

especial Care & Concern, that they may be principled in the way of truth in which we profess & walk: and in order thereunto we do earnestly recommend unto all Parents and Guardians, first that they take heed to themselves, that their own Lives be Righteous & Godly as a Rule for the help & government of their Children: and then that they have a constant watchfull Eye in Love over them for their good, and keep them as much as possible within their Notice & Observation; for this we are sensible of that the miscarriages of Youth have very much proceeded from their being imprudently Indulged & Humored by what means they become subject to the Charges & Examples of the Evil here & there, & Ignorant of the Principles on the other, with which the World be much abounds: and therefore we earnestly and tenderly advise all Parents and Guardians to be watchfully concerned in this respect: and that they take all proper means both by Example and Instruction to help their Children: and that Masters of Children as well as Fathers as they have Power by the best Opportunities, and take Care & Care to Instruct them in the Knowledge of Religion and the holy Scriptures, even as it was required by Divine Law that the Commandments only made on the tender minds of Children were given Testimony Witness of Presence them in a religious life and Conversation, this Precept was enjoined strongly upon the people of Israel by Moses & Joshua the Servants of the Lord, who required them to read or repeat the Law to their Children: and the Apostle Paul takes notice of how they is being well instructed in the holy Scriptures from a Child, and of the unfeigned Faith which dwelt in his Grandmother Lois and his Mother Eunice, 2 Tim. 1. 5. who no doubt had a religious care of his Education.

p. 110.

Bad

Children.

1738 But when Parents or Guardians are deficient in their Care we recommend the Monthly Meetings that they stir them up thereto either by visiting them in their Families; or in such Manner as in the Wisdom of God they may see meet that all the Branches of the gospel Vine a Generation to Generation may be made known unto all Generations.

Monthly Meeting to stir up Parents & Guardians to their Duty

1732

1732 See Scriptures, page 284.
1733 1733 See the Same, page 285.
1734 1734 See the Same, page 285.
1735 1735 See plainness, page 208.
And see Scriptures, page 286.

1736

1736 And dear Friends you who have Children committed to your Care are nearly concerned to endeavour them early to reading of the holy Scriptures, and to train them up in the Way of the Lord, wherein they are capable of receiving the Impressions of pure Truth, that so as they grow up in Years they may truly know for themselves what has an evil tendency, endeavouring to restrain them from every unprofitable thing which their natural inclinations may lead them to desire after: this we think is the indispensible Duty of all Parents and we cannot see how they can answer the same before the right of God for such as neglect to do it. Occasions ill Habits which afterwards are apt to be resisted without great difficulty if at all.

Train them up in the way of the Lord not to indulge but restrain them pa. 35

We also earnestly entreat our Young Friends with all reverence & regard to receive and give place to the Love of God & his wholesome Instructions bestowed upon them by their Parents & others for their benefit and Instruction and carefully to avoid evil Company which corrupts good Manners, and leads

Youth exhorted to receive Admonition

into

Children.

1731 And [illegible] our Annual Meeting from the Letters & Papers we of Truths spreading in foreign Countries, that Friends who are settling there & the prosperity of Truth at heart, might be the means of their obtaining as suitable opportunities & encouragements may be for them to accomplish so commendable a work as that of learning the high & low Dutch, Danish &c. that we when they are gone may by themselves & Friends in foreign Countries may keep the Gospel Ministers with whom they may be to dispose and enlarge them may be recommended to the Yearly Meeting.

See Families page 106.

1731

1731 It has been matter of affliction to this Meeting to understand by the Accounts received from diverse Counties, that notwithstanding the repeated exhortations and tender Counsel given forth by this Meeting to parents and others concerned for Youth, that ought to be properly engaged for their due Education in the fear of the Lord, to dispose their minds to the exercise of piety & Religion, yet too great a deficiency appears in that important Duty; under a strong concern of mind for the right performance of that early engagement, this Meeting is of the Judgment that the Overseers of the Families and the Parents of Children under a proper Age, we communicate this additional counsel, and in order them to consider that they ought to be sensible of the Limitations assigned to their Authority after this World, & the lively engagement & watchfulness after that blessing that makes truly rich and brings no sorrow with it, that the regard & the weighty Obligation lies previous [illegible] Heads of Families in many places the life of religion being lost by the parents they have neglected

Children.

[illegible] disabled from instructing their Children and the most excellent part of that near Relation has been entirely lost their Minds bent to the World & devoted to its pursuits have [illegible] them in the negligence of duty & prosperous on their principle & way God and a jealous righteous God has often [illegible] with his heavy & chastening rod the people of old. Haggai 1. Ye looked for much & lo it came to little and when ye brought it home I did blow upon it why? saith the Lord of Hosts. because of mine House that is waste and ye run every Man unto his own house.

[illegible] good reason to hope a Blessing will attend the pious endeavours of parents, that the Minds of Youth thus seasoned, they might be [illegible] of Salvation and Lives will be brought up in Sobriety according to the Will of God.

And dearly beloved Youth we in an humble [illegible] of the [illegible] Visitation of the Author & Experience of their ill fate Effects, we intreat you by the Mercies of God [illegible] to duly & sincerely submit to its Discipline. This will preserve you from the [illegible] of the [illegible] temptations, inspire you with holy resolutions & support to [illegible] in all godly Conversation & purity of faith and life adorning the Doctrine of the Gospel by an blameless Conversation.

Then peace will flow thro us as a River in your days [illegible] and the Fruits of the Tree of Righteousness be ripe for [illegible] rich & precious Consolation in Christ the Author of their Eternity, the rebuilding his Tabernacle. And tho through you she may yet appear trampled by the fierce waves, but to her Enemies terrible as an Army with Banners.

1774

Children.

1774.

It was agreed & Concluded on by the Yearly meeting of Rhode-Island as Followes. It is the sence & Judgment of this meeting that Children of such Parents as are married among Friends shall be looked upon as members And the Children of such Parents as become members by Request and are Born afterwards shall likewise be looked upon as members, as also their Children born before, if their Parents apply on their behalf and the monthly meeting think they are suitable; And that where but one of the Parents is a member either Father or mother become so by application, or otherwise their Children shall not be looked upon as members, Unless their Father or mother Desiring with us make application to the monthly meeting on account of their Children and then the monthly meeting Judge whether such children be suitable to be admitted as members or not. And it is desired that where but one of the Parents are members of our Society that they endeavour to bring up their Children agreeable to Truth as far as is in their Power, and not neglect to ask the care of Friends in behalf of them.

Conversation.

No 6 Concerning Conversation.

1650

1650 It is much upon us to put Friends in remembrance to keep to the ancient Testimony Truth begat in our hearts in the beginning against the Spirit of this World for which many have suffered cruel Mockings, Beatings, Stonings & particularly unto the Gospel Testimony of the Light Life & Power & Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ & Apostasy that the Ordinances of God may be kept & that pure Worship which is to the Lord's Name, and Truth in the Earth.

1676

See Covetousness, page 95.

1685

1685 Advised that Friends everywhere be put in mind to keep out of the Spirit of the World & Customs thereof not suffering the Spirit of the World to get over them in least to be like unto them in things [illegible] lest it prevail upon them by giving a little way to it till it lead them from the Simplicity of Truth & becomes the Gospel, and so from one vain Liberty to another till they come to lose the Life & Power in Christ, and that they [illegible] fall back into Bondage of the World's Spirit, and grow up into the Liberty of the Flesh, with the Lust thereof and so lose their Testimony for the Truth as too many have done.

1695

1695 Advised in Gods fear, how to watch against sin & keep out the Spirit of the World & Customs thereof. And that no Fellowship may be held or had with the unprofitable works of Darkness, nor therein with the Workers thereof.

And to avoid unnecessary frequenting Taverns, & all Wastes all Expenses, Excess and unprofitable and idle Discourses, misspending their precious Time and

Substance

Conversation.

1698 Substance; to the dishonour of truth, and scandal of our holy Profession.

And see Plainness, page 203.

1712

1712 See Plainness, page 205.

1725

1725 Let us watch diligently over our own Spirits to see that we are conformable to the Spirit of Truth; whereby our behaviour & Conversation may be such as becometh Godliness, and may adorn the Doctrine of our Lord Jesus Christ: who mercifully hath called us to be a people faithfull in bearing the Cross and despising the Shame, and cheerfully bearing our Testimony to the great Truths of the Christian Religion which he hath revealed, and against every appearance of Antichrist & Wickedness.

Watch over our own Spirits

1735

1735 It is the Care and concern of this Meeting to recommend unto all Friends resorting to any of the Publick Meetings of Worship within this City or elsewhere, to be very carefull at their Inns, or other Places where they may lodge or sojourn to be prudent in all manner of behaviour both [illegible] to avoid all intemperance in eating and drinking, and likewise any foolish jesting or vaine liberty whatsoever; that our Conversations seasoned with the fear of God, may [illegible] prudent to our profession and adorn the Witness of God in others, and we advise that the Quarterly Meetings in those Counties where such meetings are held, take special Care in this respect.

Caution to be observed in Conversation at Inns &c.

With regard to that openness and good disposition which appears in the Minds of people to hear the Testimony of Truth [illegible] Conversation at their Inns, it is earnestly

[illegible] so

Conversation

1735 Be carefull that your Book be not layd in the way of Inquirers &c.

Friends that they be carefull of their conduct at all times & in all Companies, that no stumbling block be laid in the way of honest inquirers nor offence given to hinder young convinced Friends to let your light & virtue so shine before them that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven. Let us walk wisely towards those that are without as well as those within, let our Moderation & prudence as well as Truth & Justice appear to all Men, and in all things in Trading & Commerce & Sparing communication & Liberty in Dressing & Furniture &c. Let all in a meek & humble spirit that is to be preserved in the Truth as may appear to be such as becometh the Gospel of Christ shunning the spirit of this world & principle we make profession of by a conversation every way agreeable thereunto.

1736

1736 And seeing it is very evident that evil communications corrupts good Manners we think proper to recommend with much Affection to our Young Friends that they be very carefull to avoid all such Company as by a light & vain Conversation would tend to alienate their minds from the love of Virtue & sobriety, for the Increase of Godliness & some are their Experience in the Wickedness of this Ecclesiastes 9 ch. 3 v. If so be there be among the professed observers of the same, they not there but be continually among Men of wicked Conversation

To avoid light & vain Company

And see Scriptures pa. 285.

1736

1736 Tho' the Accounts we have received from some places in this and other Countries of the prosperity of Truth, and of the coming forth of some many as an publick Testimony thereunto, have been very acceptable unto us, yet it is with much grief and Concern that we observe in some to be-

Testimonies observed

Conversation.

1736

declension from the Way of righteousness & Truth as well as from the plainness of Habit & Simplicity of Speech & Behaviour, which were so conspicuous in our early Friends and many of their Offspring this declension we apprehend arises from a disregard to the divine Light & Truth they have often been recommended to as the regulator of their Words & Actions by a careful conscientious regard to this the holy Men in all Ages obtained a good report and our Ancients and many of their immediate offspring were comely in the Eyes of the Nation for their solid deportment and religious regard to their Words & Actions. & God by their Example & Testimony that the precious Truth & principle which they professed and felt the Effects of might not suffer reproach from their Posterity & the like holy Concern now exists to regulate our Spirits & render them more comely in the Eyes of Beholders than any external Ornaments or Dealings of the Body what ever this would instruct them to avoid all pride & affectation & crucify them with Humility, Modesty & Love which recommends to the favour of God & good Men & many Men a religious Life & Conversation & Light & Truth, God's Witness in the Mind & Heart of Man we perceive is the most beneficial Effects as well to Society in General as to every one in particular. This would introduce universal Love, Peace & Concord among Mankind this would sweeten the bitter Spirit, mollify & assuage the fierce & violent dispositions of Men mutually in our Relations and Stations we bring all into the Unity & fellowship of the holy Spirit. the Fruits whereof the Apostle declares are Joy Peace, Longsuffering & all other Graces & Virtues & therefore most earnestly recommend a serious attention

to

from whence Declension arises.

hyd. & holy Men & Women report in all Ages.

1736 to this holy and pure principle to Guide every where, and in as particular manner to the Youth of the present Generation.

And dear Friends in order that as we have received Christ so we may walk in him in all holyness, and Godliness of Conversation we earnestly exhort that ye hold fast the profession of the Faith in our Lord Jesus Christ without wavering both in respect to his outward coming in the Flesh & sufferings Death & Resurrection & Ascension & his intercession at the right hand of the Father and to the inward Manifestation of his Grace & holy Spirit in our Hearts powerfully working in the Soul of Man to the subduing every Evil affection & lust and to the purifying of our Consciences for his Works to serve the living God and that we the Ministry of this most holy Faith ye may become strong in the Lord and in the power of his might which will enable you to worship God in Spirit with acceptance, and preserve you in a lively Frame of Mind from a drowsy and lukewarm Spirit which in all our religious Assemblies ought to be guarded against with the utmost care & circumspection & in this living Faith and pure Life of Christ you will have victory over the Powers and Dominions of the Darkness and perishing things of time we are all corrupt Creatures & Christians that is not contrary to the purity of the Gospel in every ancient Christian Testimony.

1737

1737 Dear Friends in the like manner as formerly we are earnestly concern'd in the Movings of many, that no occasion of stumbling or offence be laid in their way but that all such as have made longer profession of the way of Truth may be excited to walk before them in all holyness and uprightness of Conversation in fear and Humble waiting upon the Lord that their example may tend to the Encouragement & strengthening of those who have but lately entered into a

diligent

Conversation.

1737 steady and constant perseverance in the path which the Lord hath directed their Feet into.

See p. 32. and 33 [illegible] Shaking hands &c

We dear Friends bis with much sorrow & grief of heart we have still occasion to remind you of the Advices so lately delivered in our Yearly Epistles, namely to keep out of the extravagant Fashions and Customs of the World, and not to Launch further into Trade and Business than you are capable of managing or carrying on with reputation & credit among Men, & without prejudice loss or Detriment to any.

We are fully persuaded that if Friends were more watchful in the respect we ought to this Love precept of Christ viz. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his Righteousness which is the main & principal duty of all his Followers to observe we should have little or no Occasion for the repetition of such Advices let therefore we earnestly beseech you that precept of our blessed Lord & Master be duly considered and put in practice that by ordering our Conversations agreeable to our profession we may show forth the praise of him that hath called us & shall be witness the promise to be fulfilled. them that honour me with the Lord will honour me. ——

1738

1738 Let me for as much as we are called with an Holy & holy calling, to all holiness & purity of Conversation let your Behaviour among Men be unblameable, and such as may adorn the Gospel of Christ, let not the vain & sinful Fashions of the World prevail over you. avoid Sports, plays and all such Diversions, as tending to alienate the Mind from God and to deprive the Soul of his comfortable presence & power. Be temperate & sober, shun all excess in Eating

against vain Fashions Sports Plays &c

to compose &c

Conversation.

in Drinking bt such of you as dual in Spi-
tuous Liquors be carefull to limit your Selves with-
in the bounds prescribed by the Law of the Land: Be-
ware lest any of you suffer as an evil doer. 1 Pet. 4. 15

1739

1739 The Advice in 1738 renewed, and earnestly
beseech our Friends and the Youth especially to
avoid all such Conversation as tends to draw out
their minds into the Foolish and wicked pastimes
with which this Age abounds particularly Balls
Gaming places Horse Races, and play Houses the
Nurseries of Debauchery and Wickedness; the bastion
and guise of the Other part of these Societies, as well
as Every vain practice wholly inconsistent with a
profession of the Christian profession &c

See printed Epistles

1743

1743 See plainness, page 280. —

(5)

Correspondents.

Concerning Correspondents.

1682

1682 See 1703 1705 1707

Agreed that the persons to be corresponded with here be sometimes to time agreed & directed by the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1693

1693 Inform'd with to Corresp.

Agreed that each Quarterly Meeting take care to advise the Correspondents for the Counties and any others concerned to write only the Correspondents in their own abord their Sufferings, and not to other persons, lest their suffering Case be delayed.

1701

1701 ~~Recapitulate Number of the Meeting~~

This Meeting desires the City Correspondents to write to the several places expected for at least once a Year.

1703

1703 Who are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings

Agreed after a mature Consideration that none are proper Members of the Meeting for Sufferings but such Friends and such as are appointed & approved by the several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties & Countries that correspond with this Meeting in all places, & are entered as such in the Correspondent Book.

1705

1705 See 1725

After a consideration about the Correspondents in London it was agreed by this Meeting that it was fit for the deputies of the Counties to inform their Correspondents as they see meet.

1709

1709 Epistles to foreign parts to be read

It is agreed that the Epistles to foreign parts to be requisites of such Friends as are made use of to correspond with the upon the Affairs of Truth & to inform them how they may direct to them & to such other persons & them otherwise that they may have this Meeting who they would have for their Correspondents there & that they do likewise let them know to whom & where they shall direct to them there.

Correspondents.

1713

1713 Recommended to the Meeting for Sufferings to enquire whether the Epistles be duly sent by the Correspondents to the foreign Plantations.

1717

1717 Agreed that the London Correspondents be no more than four for any one County or place for the future and that where the Number at present exceeds four as soon as any of them decline or die, and they are reduced to four the Number in those places also shall be kept to the Number not exceeding four.

1720

1720 The Meeting for Sufferings is desired to call upon the Members thereof to give the service of their attendance therein and that if notwithstanding being so called upon any Members shall neglect or refuse to give their assistance on all necessary Occasions the said Meeting is desired to acquaint therewith the County for whom such Person neglecting to serve was appointed that they may name or appoint some other [illegible] necessary Friends who can or will attend the Service on all Occasions.

1725

1725 Agreed that the Quarterly Meetings in the Counties do carefully & expressly give Instructions to their respective Monthly Meetings that Correspondents they shall nominate in the City in the room of any Friends deceased or removed or else expressly leave them to their Liberty of Choice &c.

And also that the Meeting for Sufferings either once or twice a year after the death of any of their Members do give notice to the County or Counties for which the said Friend is appointed in order that they may give such Directions, the next Yearly Meeting

Correspondents.

1730

1730 This Meeting having had under their Consideration a proposition made relating to persons employed as Correspondents to some of whom have made an Allowance of their just Debts this Meeting is not willing that on any such Circumstance is fit to be employed in that Station till he hath given the Monthly Meeting he belongs to Satisfaction: and therefore hereby recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings that for the future they take special Care where any such failure has or may happen that they duly apply the Countries thereof for which they are Correspondents in order that a new Choice may be made to supply his place.

A Copy of this Minute to be sent home to the several Counties for Pennsylvania, also to all yearly Meetings with respect to Correspondents in the County thereof.

Writing to foreign parts.

This Meeting recommends it to the Meeting for Sufferings to take due care to see that the Correspondents for foreign Countries inform the several persons they receive from here and also write to the several distant places in the Fall whereunto this Meeting hath hereto for encouraged above any Letters to be notwithstanding at any time this Meeting may not have any Account from thence either by Epistle or otherwise: Unless that all such Letters allowed be agreed by the Meeting for Sufferings in behalf of this Yearly Meeting

1731

1731 It being taken notice of in this Meeting that some Friends of the City above Names stand on the Correspondent Book do very seldom attend the Meeting for Sufferings: this Meeting are of opinion that such persons not attend the said Meeting at least once in [illegible] should be discharged by this Meeting unless for sufficient Reasons which could be rendered.

1735

A Minute of the like purport.

Correspondents.

1736

1736 The Friends of the Meeting for Sufferings having
laid before this Meeting a Minute respecting
some difficulties in putting in practice the Advice
of this Meeting in the Years 1731 & 1736, relating
Attendance to the attendance of the Members of that Meeting
See 1737. in the Service therefore this Meeting taking
the same into their Consideration approves
what the said Meeting have done: and now a-
grees that instead of every Night to attend
a Quarter all such Members to attend at least
six times a Year.

1737

1737 On perusing the Minutes of the Meeting for
Sufferings respecting the attendance of its Mem-
bers we find that a considerable deficiency
appears on attending the same, altho for Seve-
ral Years past they have been annually re-
quested to do it. This Meeting being desirous
they may come up to their Service request their
care and diligence for the future: and do agree
not attending Six times a Year to be struck out that such that come attend at least six times
in the Year pursuant to the Direction of a Mi-
nute of the last Yearly Meeting, shall be
struck out of the Correspondents Book, unless they
give sufficient reasons to the contrary.

1743

1743 See Representatives, page 271—

1767

1767 This Meeting having considered the nature & im-
portance of the Affairs transacted by the Meeting of
Sufferings, and the continued necessity there is that
they should be managed by grave and weighty Friends
Qualifications of such as are themselves Men of clean hands and
See 1720 pure Hearts, becoming the Service they profess in their Conver-
pa: 67. sations

Correspondents.

1687 Conversations it is becom the earnest desire of this Meeting that for the future Friends every where will be particularly carefull in their choice of such who are to Act as Correspondents either in the City or the Countries informing themselves as much as may be of the Qualifications of those who are intended for such Services and that such only may be nominated who are faithfull in the several Branches of our Christian Testimony against Tithes, Bearing Arms, & Swearing and who are also exemplary in their Conduct & Conversation amongst Men and coming up in that plainness of Speech Behaviour & Apparel which highly becomes those, in an especial manner who are Concerned in managing the affairs of the Church.

Covetousness.

No Concerning Covetousness

1696

1696 And now sirs we covet to be Rich in
not Covet to be Rich this World in these changeable things that will pass
away, but yours shall be stayd in the love God
who changes not, that created all and gives Riches
enough to all.

1697

1697 We do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,
beware of Covetousness warn and charge all that professe the Truth among
us to take heed and beware of Covetousness, over
reaching, oppressing & defrauding of any person
wherein such Contention & Jarrings be often rise
and if any difference about these things to happen
among you stop & suppress it.

1699

1699 Let all Friends be exhorted to abide under the daily
abide under the daily Cross, &c Cross by which the earthly Man may be crucified which
hath its delight & ease in Vanity, pride in Covetous-
ness &c. that Enemies being preserved out of these
things wherein the Enemy hath had & has his King-
dom and so plainly lays his Snares to hinder their
holy progress, may every where be more & more re-
vealed, serious, plain & self denying people growing
in the Grace & Knowledge of God and our Lord Jesus
Christ and exalting his Spiritual Kingdom in their
Souls.

1720

1720 For our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christs
beware of Covetousness & hastening to be Rich. exhorted & warned to beware & take heed of Covetous-
ness which is Idolatry we are concerned that all professing
Christianity among us may take heed of Covet-
tousness and hastening to be Rich in the World which
are pernicious & growing Evils let them be watched
against, resisted & suppressed in the fear & dread of Al-
mighty God & have no place or countenance in his Camp.

Oh ye yong Elders both Men & Women pray
earnestly & watchfully against these Evils as ye will
in these Cases.

Condolements.

1725

1725 She cast Ayres Caution repeated.

1725

1725 See Children page 42.

Days.

Keeping Days.

1690

1690 See Children, page 36.

1691

1691 Advised that Christians keep to Holy ends Example and Testimony against the Superstitious observation of Days.

1697

1697 That all Friends keep to the simplicity of Truth in calling the Months and Days by the plain Names, and not by Heathen.

1715

1715 See Plainness, page 205.

Defamation.

To Concerning Defamation

1710

1710 It is the advice of this Meeting that any person charged with Defamation or Scandal ought to be proceeded against in the manner and by the several steps following.

First, The Person defamed or suspected to be defamed in his or her person or any other to whom the knowledge of the case shall come is to go to the Accused & tell him his fault & deal with him therein more privately & if he be capable of it & be willing to convince him of it & bring him to a sense thereof & Repentance & promise amendment of life & Conversation he is then to be admonished by him of the Sin & Repentance if he appear guilty; but if the Accused shall appear either thro' Ignorance not to apprehend the validity of the Proof or thro' willfullness not to yield to it, or being convinced shall refuse to make such satisfaction as the nature of the case requires & that being the consequence of his Refusal in such case the Accuser is to take with him one or two more of the Monthly Meeting the Accused belongs to & if they privately & if the Accused thinks fit he may bring with him one or two friends also of the same Monthly Meeting, if it may be conveniently done & they together in the Wisdom of God to endeavour the true knowledge of the case by hearing Witnesses if there be Occasion & if they all shall judge him guilty, and he doth not make satisfaction or if they do not all agree that he is innocent in either of these Cases he or any of the former hearing shall bring the matter before the Church & we the only proper Judges remaining but of the nature of the validity of the proof & then by the Spirit which we hope will not be wanting to his Church as they humbly wait on him for it to deal with him for the good ends before mentioned, and as they see cause upon a mature & deliberate consideration to justify or condemn him, and if the Church shall see meet to commit the Consideration of a Case of this nature for better dispatch to a certain number of their own Body we recommend it as [illegible] that one of the Accuser shall be [illegible] one or more of the Accused as for that the Church

Defamation

1728 Church have a due regard to such objection and by
[illegible] to [illegible] the person or persons so objecting against and sub-
committed whilst another or others in his or their name prose-
Regard is to be had to the Objection of the Accused. cuted such objection doth not extend to the major part
of the Superiors so chosen and in general we desire
all tenderness & regard may be had to a person un-
der such Circumstances, and that Friends in a
Spirit of Love & Compassion should be ready
to make them as easy as they can, provided they
keep up the Authority of their Meetings.

Nameless Books and pamphlets re-
flecting darkly on Friends are testified against
and its desired that no such Books be written,
printed, published or privately handed about by
any under our profession, for the time to come.

See Tale-bearing & Backbiting, page 315 &
page 317.

Defamation.

Discipline.

Minutes Concerning Discipline.

1675

1675 Advised. That the Christian testimony & judgment against disorderly & scandalous walkers in case the repentance & condemnation of the parties restored be recorded in a distinct book in the respective Monthly & Quarterly Meetings for the clearing of truth & Friends only & for no other purpose & for that purpose only in our Gospel order they shall see needful.

Testimony against disorderly walkers

Their Repentance to be recorded

And it is also our advice in the Love of God that after any Friends repentance & restoration he abiding faithfull in the Truth that we in no wise mind you or remember his Transgression more but cast it behind or upbraid him with it; for that is not according to the Mercies of God.

not to upbraid any with past offences

1691

1691 When there be any such gross Errors false Doctrines or mistakes held by any professing truth in question) arise either against the validity of Christs sufferings, Blood, Resurrection, Ascension or Glory in the Heavens according as they are set forth in the Scriptures or any ways tending to the denial of the heavenly Man Christ such persons ought to be diligently instructed & admonished by faithfull Friends (in their parts) and not to be exposed to any to publick reproach and where the Error proceeds from Ignorance & darkness of their minds Friends they ought the more meekly & gently to be informed but if any shall willfully persist in error in point of Faith after duly informed then such to be further dealt with according to Gospel order that the Church or Body of Christ may not suffer by any particular pretended Member that is so corrupt.

1695

1695 Also it is in all Cases thought fit & necessary of truth concerned faithfull Friends of the respective

Monthly

Discipline.

1693 Friends to be appointed to oversee and admonish &c.

Monthly Meetings be appointed to see how well their things be ordered and orderly to admonish and reprove such as shall decline the same.

1701

1701 If any weakness, shortness, failure or unfaithfullness appear in any professing the same Truth with us, we hope faithfull Friends & Brethren will continue their Christian care for their help in doctrine and conversation in the love & peace of the Lord, as in his Wisdom they shall see cause still aiming at their good, their inward peace & Conscience & Salvation in Christ Jesus.

1703

1703 Recommended to our faithfull Friends & Elders especially to watch over the Flock of Christ in their respective places that they faithfully and diligently walking up to the Testimony of the blessed Truth to which the Lord hath gathered us in this latter Age of the World that in whose ministry we find steadfastness & fruitfulness they may be encouraged & brought in the Spirit of love which is that of the Gospel that divine Charity that draws us with the Cords of a Man, wherein Mercy is not only met with but judgment, but may appear even all our Work that is to be done to ill, that Church Love about before Church Censure comes, or that a Gospel Spirit is the spring and motive to all our performances as well in Discipline as Worship.

To watch over the Flock &c.

If fruitfully to be encouraged &c.

1708

1708 Forasmuch as some persons who by their ill Conduct have justly deserved and come under the Censure of this Meetings to which they belong have taught to get from under the weight of that Judgment by signing a paper of Condemnation & Humble supplication pleading discharge & therefore recommended to Consideration that we be carefull not to admit such to come early into fellowship again as we ought to think they are accepted before the meeting or Meetings

Such who have come under Censure &c.

are

are satisfied in their Repentance & amendment not withstanding such paper be given.

1718

1718 See Defamation page 81.82.

1731

1731 We earnestly exhort all Friends and Brethren that there be a strict concern of Spirit for the honour of God in the welfare of his people that they diligently watch over one another for good and where any weakness or unfaithfulness be discovered in any Friend Christian Sympathy & tenderness in any making profession with us be such to be timely and tenderly advised according to the Wisdom of Truth stirred up to their Duty.

1735

1735 And we do further recommend as a means very conducive to the preservation of Friends a people & our Children after us that the Discipline of the Church in the several Meetings & Stations for that purpose be kept up & managed in a Spirit of Love & Wisdom that all things in those Meetings be done with charity: let the Love of God in an especial manner rule in your hearts and therein tho sometimes different Sentiments may arise, yet that every Member have the same thing in view, viz the glory of God, and the good of his Church and people, and in this singleness of heart they will be kept from all the great Heat and Fervices of those Meetings we advise therefore upon this occasion that nothing be done there thro strife and Contention; nor from any private view or the influence of Numbers, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem another better than himself: and where any debates arise, endeavour in a Spirit of Meekness to convince one another, and as you so shew mutually engaged in Love, your hearts will be united and Love & Unity will increase, all Jealousies will be removed and you will be enabled thro meekness, humbly & lovingly bearing and forbearing one of another, to keep the Unity of the Spirit in the Bond of Peace which keeps

over

Discipline

1735 having a due Watchfull Caution of the Apostle Gal. 5. 26. Let us not be desirous of vain Glory provoking one another envying one another knowing this, that the fruits of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, long-suffering, gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness, Temperance against such there is no Law and they that are Christs have crucified the Flesh with the affections and lusts if we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit. vers 22, 23, 24, 25.

See Appeals page. 84 & 85.
Admonition page 121.
Families, page 105 to 107.
Marriage page. 135 to 138.
Sighting, page 111

1711

1711 See Marriage page. 138.

1713

1713 See Meetings for Discipline pa 160.

1716

1716 See Law page 126.

Marriage pag. 139.
Evil doing pages 37.
Sighting page 112

1720

1720 See Appeals, page 4.

1727

1727 Agreed that where persons commits an offence within a Monthly Meeting wherein he resides but is not properly a member by the Rules of settlement, shall by such monthly Meeting have the offence or offences to be dealt with as shall be of such as nature as merits a denial, the said Meeting shall have [illegible] punishment

Discipline.

1749 caution him upon which only which he shall not
refuse him to membership in the Monthly Meeting
~~Hating~~ in having dealt with him; but to the Meeting
of which he was a member before such dealing and the
Monthly Meeting who hath discovered a desire to
Friends shall immediately give notice of such Friend
a acceptance to the Monthly Meeting to which he
belongs.

See Marriages pages 180.

1748

1748 See Marriages pages 185.

1749

1749 Advised that Friends be very careful to
keep out of shun & avoid and beware of that Spirit which leadeth into
strife &c heats & strife, and which can never walk the light
& clearness of Gods but must walk in the darkness of the
mind in whom there may be a difference of opinion
Endeavouring in the Love and tenderness of truth to over-
come that Judgment in all patiently to wait for the
leading influences of the Love of God, which will produce
that brotherly regard and condescension as may unite the
Spirits to them & one another.

1750

1750 The case of the women to be read with sorrow
early and diligent & With reconsistently with our holy profession we are
care not the unfaithful in respect to our Christian testimony being
full recommended. lost in divers and early and diligent care which
is earnestly recommended and we desire that all
who have at heart the honour of God and the prosperity of Truth will be stirred up to discharge themselves
any part of Christian duty in their respective
times timely cautions may often prevent unhappy
effects and in Brotherly love visit and admonish one
another knowing hurt may be to ourselves and the so-
ciety & Satisfaction & duty made to be instrumental in their
preservation.

Agreed with the Quarterly Meeting to establish
& amongst us such rules in divine Wisdom & Zeal, con-
trived to prevent the growing Evils & sinfull Liberties

Discipline.

1750 of various kinds which appear in too many places to the dishonour of God the grief of good men & to expose your holy profession.

But if Individuals neglect their duty towards God in their love to God, and cease that hunger after divine Virtue & inward support to live to his praise and their own Comfort, which is the certain effects of his Visitation wheresoever it is embraced, how can a proper Concern for the good of others and for the prosperity of Truth have due place in their Minds? Or be properly excited by those who are not enough engaged to feel after the increase of these effects for themselves?

As this neglect of diligently applying & waiting for heavenly Virtue the ability to discharge the duties required of us, is the source of loss and decay to particulars with respect to a growth in religion so the same unhappy effects are communicative to the Body: and where this is the Case, whereby Ministers themselves are disqualified to discipline in the want of a proper concern for the good order of the Church.

Let all therefore be excited to Labour in a Spirit of Love and fervent Charity, with such as may be overtaken in Faulting into Ways injurious to their peace and tendency to the dishonour of our Christian profession so that in this exercise a tender care and watchfulness over one another for mutual edification we may approve ourselves faithfull just and true in the sight of God. By Examples of Temperance, patience purity, and holiness before men, to the praise of the Most High the comfort of his people the ease and eternal happiness.

Discipline.

1758

1758 The Answers to our Queries brought in being read plain and explicit have in that respect given us Satisfaction. thereby opening an opportunity to this Meeting to impart the necessary Counsel that are recommend to the practice of every Quarterly Meeting.

Answers to Queries plain & explicit

Elders

We are intreated the Elders amongst you take with diligence heed to that power that gives Dominion over all corrupt Spirits and in Watchfulness and Circumspection seek to move that which is strange that when the great Shepherd shall appear you may receive your Reward.

1760

1760 Agreed and concluded at the Yearly Meeting held at Shrewsbury in Rhode Island. That for admitting convinced persons into membership who have not had their Birth and Education amongst friends.

Method for admitting convinced Persons into Membership

That they first apply to a preparative Meeting & on their request to come into the Society if the preparative Meeting approve the same that they request the monthly Meeting they live most for so requesting to attend at such time and signify his or her desire to be taken under their Care which upon the Monthly Meeting shall appear and sufficient Satisfaction to engage in the Persons Life and Conversation are to take a Stated Care with the petitioner in order the better to understand whether their motive for such request be sincere and from the bottom of true Conviction and make report accordingly to the monthly Meeting which if Satisfactory to the Meeting that a Minute be then made thereof signifying their accepting such a person into Membership with us.

But in all such Cases friends are desired carefully to attend to the Advice of the Apostle of laying hands suddenly on no Man.

92

Discipline

1772

Agreed & Concluded on by the Yearly meeting of Rhode Island, as follows viz:

It is the sense & judgment of this meeting, that it is not Consistant with our Religious Profession, for the members of our Society to Joyn with those Called free Masons: & we advise that Quarterly & Monthly meetings dissuade their members therefrom; And if any Continue therein or otherwise there in Contrary to the Advice herein contained, That they be Dealt with as such who refuse the Advice of Friends.

The Report of the Comtee's meetings conclusions in the year 1770. Ye yearly Committee being appointed to Collect & revise a Book of Rules for Church Discipline throughout this Yearly Meeting, having several times met & considered of the matter to Report that the Rules of our Friends in Old England are suitable for us with the following Remarks Viz.

page 2 — Appeals to be delivered in on 6th day instead of third days.

— The Paragraph Concerning Certificates being Condemned is to be left out. . . The following words to be added to the week day Meetings.

The following method of Constituteing Meetings for Worship & Elders is to be Transcribed. A Paragraph in the

197 Yearly Meeting Epistle from London concerning Negroes to be
203 added. — And all the Queries to be left out untile the Spring of 1773 And the Queries to be put in as most proper to be in Said our present Book of Constituteing our Yearly Meeting to be Inserted under the Head of Yearly Meeting Both of Business & Ministers & Elders. .

A.D. 1758

Discipline

And the minute in our Discipline concerning Signing Commissions to be added Under the head of Clerks & Governors. And enter under the head of Discipline the method of Initiating Convinced ~~Members~~ Persons.

Signed in the Presence of said Committee by Order } Isaac Pidrich.

This meeting therefore appoints the following Committee to agree with some suitable Person to Transcribe the English book of Discipline that there may be one for each Quarterly Meeting and to be paid out of the yearly Meeting Stock & to see that the several Paragraphs brought in by the yearly Meetings Committee are carefully entered therein from proper heads, viz. Joseph Jacob, David Evans, Isaac Layton & William Coggeshall.

And this Meeting Recommends to each Quarterly Meeting that they furnish each particular & Monthly Meeting with Transcripts of the same for the Use intended & that the same be done as soon as possible.

1790 ~~This Meeting~~ respecting the proposal brought from the Morning Meeting of Ministers & Elders concerning Members not Attending their Meetings It is our Judgment that the same be Established as a Rule in our Society. Concerning the Request brought from said Morning Meeting, it is our judgment that the Establishing such Select meeting under such

Regulations

Discipline

1770 Regulations as is Intended in the Request may be as Nigh as in our Society as follows

That where it Shall Appear upon due Inspection Made, that any Member Shall or do neglect or omit due Attendance to their meetings through Slothfulness or Love of the world, or Lukewarmness in Religion, that the Monthly Meeting take Care that all Such be timely visited in Love, And Acquainted with the nature & Desire of Friends in that case, And admonished for faithfulness therein, And if notwithstanding the due Christian Labour & Admonition he She or they shall continue in the said Neglect or Omission, that his Minister her or publick Testimony be Denied, & if a Minister Elder he or she be dismissed from that Station.

We also desire that you would take into consideration whether it might not prove Advantageous to our Society, to have at Each General Meeting, a Select Meeting both at the Beginning And End of every such Meeting, And a Committee Appointed to draw the Draught of such meeting & make Report to the Select Meeting then in being, And also to the yearly Meeting of ministers & Elders Annually At Nantucket. —

In Answer to the Matter report from the Quarterly Meeting of Rhode Island concerning what Frances [illegible] Misconduct might be justly Satisfied against by the Meeting in the Several Parts; it was Concurred that

1770 That the first Paragraph in the Book of Discipline
Under the head of Discipline page 279 is Additional
rule in that Case if Attended to.

And as to the Above Reference from said Quarterly
Meeting, Whether it be not an Inconsistancy in Friends
conduct in Allowing their Members to Undertake to
Join people in Marriage After the Manner of the World
It is Our Judgment that it is An Inconsistancy. And
it is the mind of this Meeting that if any member is
found in the Practice thereof for the future he shall
be dealt with As a Transgressor.

1774 As to the Affair brought from Hardwick
desireing this Meeting's Advice Whether One Parent
either Father or Mother being a Member Entitles their
Children to Membership; It is our Sense & Judgment
that the Children of Such Parents As are married among
Friends, shall be looked upon as Members, And the Chil-
dren of Such Parents as become Members by Application
shall be likewise looked upon as Members, provided their
parents made Application whilst their Children were
Under their Care & behaved Orderly. And that where
but one of the Parents is a member either Father or Mother
become so either by Application or Otherwise, their Children
shall not be looked upon as Members, unless their Father
or Mother professing with us make application to the
Monthly Meeting on Account of their Children And

their

Discipline

1774 then the Monthly Meeting Judge whether Such Children be suitable to be admitted or not. And it is advised that where it so happens that but one of the parents are Members of our Society that they Endeavour to bring in their Children agreable to Truth, as far as it is in their Power, & not neglect to ask the Care of Friends in behalf of their Children. ~

The following Explanation of the Above minute was Concluded on in 1772. ~

1772. It is the Sense & Judgment of this Meeting that all Children that are born of Parents while they are both Members shall be looked upon as members And no Others; Unless Parents who had Children before they were Members, apply on their behalf & the monthly Meeting think they are Suitable Also where but one Parent is a Member & the Father or Mother Such Parent professing with Us may Make Application to the Monthly Meeting on behalf of their Children & then the Monthly Meeting Judge whether such Children are Suitable to be admitted as Members or not. ~ And it is Advised that where it so happens that but one of the Parents are Members of our Society that they Endeavour to Educate their Children agreable to Truth, as far as it is in their Power & not to neglect the Care of Friends in behalf of them. ~

1773.

1733 Vide a Minute under the Heading of Disciplin respecting Men & Women Meetings being one in meaning & Signifying Manners &c. page 11.

Vide Testimonies of Denial and Acknowledgment page 319 under Testimonies &c.

Testimonies Denial &c. Vide Publick Friends &c.

Disputes.

82: Concerning Disputes.

1696

1696 shun disputes

• Advised that friends be tender to the tender spirit of God in all and shun the occasions of unnecessary disputes & Jangelings & not ingage themselves in others for that many times with a blustering Wind that hurts and bruises the tender Buds and Plants.

1699

1699 an humble condescending spirit recommended

Because our comfort our peace depends upon our unity & love one to another & Tenderness among Brethren in all our Services it is earnestly recommended unto us humble & condescending frame of Spirit unto all that with godly Zeal & Meekness we may be exercised in all our respective Services that we may help one another & not hinder one another if striving to prevent the Peace of the Church of Christ preserved in ourselves among us and to that purpose it is tenderly advised that we diligently & carefully observe the comely and blessed Gospel order so long known and in practice among us in the Spirit of Meekness & love & a sound mind which is the way to crush all differences in their beginning and cast out the Root as well as stop the progress of every thing that is unseemly and inconsistant with the Testimony of the precious Truth.

to prevent occasion of strife

to crush differences

1736

1736 Subject to the Yearly Meeting

• And it is the earnest desire of this Meeting that a Spirit of Love and Humility may more and more diffuse it self among us in the Influence the hearts of all that we may one and all come to such perfection & purity and that none be apt to take offence but each in his own particular be more careful to reprove his own failings and imperfections than curious in observing censuring and aggravating those of others & it be to the Exercise of mutual Forbearance & Forgiveness one of another & that the occasion of Contention with be removed & the Churches preserved in a sweet Union & Tranquility.

Epistles.

No. 13 Concerning Epistles.

1696

1696 Ordered that all Epistles sent unto the Yearly Meeting are duely read by the second Days Morning Meeting to prevent the Confusion happening at the Yearly Meeting by the Yearly Meeting's not being fully met in the said Meeting.

1696

1696 Ordered that the Answers to the several foreign Epistles, when drawn be brought to the second day's Morning Meeting before sent, and Copies left there.

Answers before sent in the Yearly Meeting

1701

1701 See Correspondents, page 65.

1702

1702 Agreed that when Answers are drawn up to the several Epistles, they be shewn unto the second Days Morning Meeting and sent as formerly, and the Epistles left there

Answers

1709 & 1713

1709 & 1713 See Correspondents, page 65 & 66.

1715

1715 This Meeting desires the Correspondents to make Copies of the Answers to the Epistles this Year, that the same may be prepared & brought to the Morning Meeting of the second day of the week

& the week before the Yearly Meeting

1719

1719 Whereas it is observed, that in some Epistles from foreign parts mention is made that they are signed by order and in behalf of the Yearly Meeting but no Notice that they have been read and approved here. It is therefore desired that due care be taken that as often as may be such Epistles may be read and approved in the Yearly Meetings and signed in the Epistles they have been in the Correspondents of foreign parts to give them notice hereof.

Epistles from foreign parts

1728

1728 This referred to the Yearly Meeting for Suffering to take care to send Epistles to all the Quarterly Meetings in Pennsylvania & Jersey which are not represented in the Yearly Meeting

Epistles.

1730

1730 This Meeting recommend it to the Meeting for Sufferings to take due care to see that the Correspondents for foreign Countries procure the several Epistles sent from them, & direct to the several Yearly Meetings in the World, wherewith this Meeting hath heretofore corresponded, when any Friends are concerned therein at any time this Meeting may not have any Account from thence either by Epistle or otherwise; and that all such Answers allowed, be signed by the Meeting for Sufferings on behalf of this yearly Meeting.

The meeting for Sufferings to procure the several Epistles to be sent to all those places where ~~ye~~ Friends are & the Epistles be received.

Families.

Concerning visiting of Families

1708

1708 Inasmuch as a godly care is growing among Friends in many places, that all things which we have may be sanctified might be removed, that in all that profess the precious truth with us may come up together in the power of the Gospel for the furthering of which and encouraging thereto it is recommended, that weighty and suitable Friends of exemplary Conversation be stirred up in the Wisdom of God to visit the Families of Friends in his love, who are desired to perform that visit in a peaceable Spirit & such manner may be sure

Advice to visit Families

See 1698 pa 86.

1710

1710 We esteem it very necessary & request that young concerned in each particular Meeting be encouraged by visits in the Love of God by faithful Friends for their encouragement, help & furtherance in the Truth and that the Christian duty of visiting the Sick be timely remembered & practised it having often been found of comfort & use and healings upon the Spirits of many to their very end.

to visit young concerned Friends & the Sick

1729

1729 And we with hope if Friends in their Monthly Meetings should pursuant to the Directions of this Meeting in the Epistle for 1728 appoint proper suitable and honest Friends to visit their respective Members, it may in great measure prevent the Necessity of repeating the Advices which have been so frequently given.

1731

1731 See Children - page 43.

Families.

1733

1733 We again recommend to Friends in their several Monthly Meetings to take special Care to appoint proper prudent and judicious Friends to visit their

To appoint Friends to visit Families

page 100. Brethren in their families pursuant to former Directions in the Yearly Meeting, that they may maintain that watchful Inspection in a Spirit of Love and in the Meekness of Wisdom, to encourage the Performance of their respective Members of the Necessity of their coming up in all their Brethren in practice agreeable to our Christian profession, that so the several Branches of the Testimony which Truth hath given our Ancients and us to bear, may be maintained unviolated.

See Meetings for Discipline page 137.

1737

1737 And dear Friends having received very comfortable Accounts from divers places of the good disposition visible in the Minds of young People to walk in that plainness & Self-denial which have been often recommended by this Meeting as earnestly desire, that Parents & Guardians will diligently labour with their Children & Wards in their tender years & encourage them in every thing that may contribute to their growth & progress in the ways of Truth & holiness, and for the strength and encouragement of every such well disposed young person, we earnestly exhort Masters & Mistresses of Families to be exemplary in their own conduct & to improve their advice by an agreeable Conversation or practice, and in no wise to discourage but encourage both their Children and Servants in that plainness of Speech & Behaviour which the Truth leads to.

110

Free Masons

1772 As to the Consistancy of the Members of Our Society joinning themselves with Those Called Freemasons

See Advice page 6 —

Fighting.

No. 15. Concerning Fighting.

1693

1693 A Complaint being made about some Ships that were also professs the Truth in the eastern Parts their carrying Guns in their Ships supposing thereby to defend and secure themselves and their Ships contrary to their former practice & principle and to the endangering their own and others Lives thereby also giving occasion of more severe hardships & sufferings to be inflicted on such Friends as are pressed into Ships of War who for conscience sake cannot fight nor destroy Men's Lives: It is therefore recommended to the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings whereunto such Ship Masters belong to deal with them in Gods Wisdom and tender love to stir them up and awaken their Consciences that they may seriously consider how they injure their own Souls & be so doing and what occasion they give to make the Truth & Friends to suffer by their declension & acting contrary thereunto, thro' disobedience and unwatchfulness in their Security in that which is altogether insecure & dangerous which we are really sorry for in a tenderness to their recovery and safety from whatever that may bring Trouble and Confusion may be in the holy power of God. See more in the time printed Epistle.

Against carrying Guns in Ships.

1709

1709 The foregoing Advice still recommended.

1730

1730 It hath been a weighty concern on this Meeting that our ancient & honorable Testimony against Fighting being concerned in carrying on Fighting may be maintained & kept a Testimony agreeable to the Nature and design of the Christian Religion, and to the universal Love & Grace of God: this Testimony we desire may be strictly & carefully maintained by a godly Care & concern in all Friends single & clear therein, so shall we strengthen and comfort one another.

1730 against Fighting & carrying Guns.

1742

1742 See Questions page 24.

Sighling.

1764.

1764 (S) Having been in passing Some representations
complainings of to this Meeting that notwithstanding
Testimony against War. we have as a people to bear our faithful
testimony as well as the primitive Christians to be inclusive of
that noble prophecy Isaiah 2. they shall beat
their Swords into plough Shares and their Spears into
pruning Hooks, and learn War no more, agreeable to
the doctrine of our blessed Lord & Saviour Jesus
Christ and his Apostles to which our ancient
Friends abundantly bore Testimony both in doctrine
in practice and suffered deeply for in conformity
thereto by Several of our Yearly Meetings particularly
in the Years 1693. 1696 & 730 by their express
declarations & testimonies against warring Wars
& fighting our Ships persons & Goods and being un-
der many strong engagements to observe the same
from the particular Care of Providence over such as
have been faithfull to this our Testimony particularly
those of our Friends in Pennsilvania.

Nevertheless some professing to be of our So-
ciety have of late slighted and neglected this our
Privateering ancient and Christian Testemony to that
degree as to be concerned in privateering or
Wars in Ships going with Letters of Marque
which a flagrant & lamentable departure from
the peaceable principle which hath always been
practised in the protection & Providence of
Almighty God in not in Weapons of War
which practice of Wars may be attended with
Injustice Barbarity & Bloodshed.

This Meeting therefore having taken this un-
happy & offending Case and Breach of our an-
cient Testimony into our serious Consideration

have

Fighting.

1744 have thought it our incumbent Duty: to bear a Testimony against such practices: and tis the unanimous Sence of this Meeting that all Quarterly & Monthly Meetings ought Speedily to deal with every person found in the practice of such things, in the Spirit of Truth & Love, in order to bring them to a sense of their Error, and to reclaim them from it: which if they cannot do, then to testify against them, and let them know we have no unity or Fellowship with them.

And See Questions, page. 248.

Kings & Governours.

&c. concerning Kings & Governours

1689

1689 To give no offence to those in Government

Advised to walk wisely & circumspectly towards all Men in the peaceable Spirit of Christ Jesus, giving no offence nor occasion to those in outward Government nor way to any disturbances, heats or distractions of this World about the Kingdoms of it, but pray for them & all and submit all to that divine power and Wisdom which rules over the Kingdoms of Men.

1690

1690 It is desired that Friends be circumspect and not make it their business to discourse of the outward powers, but to discourage all such things.

And dear Friends, altho we gave plain and christian advice & admonition last Year for Friends to be aware of all airey Discourses, Disputes & Controversies about the Kingdoms of this World, that all might walk wisely & circumspectly in subjection to the divine and over ruling Power & Wisdom of God: yet contrary to our Expectation we have had too much complaint and reflections occasioned by some who have not observed & true Regard to their Antiquated but have been too busy, here and there in discourses of that Nature: and therefore we do exhort & admonish all such in the fear of God and as they have respect unto his holy Truth, we innocent People & their own safety to be watchfull carefull & circumspect for the time to come, that none may suffer as busybodies, nor bring suffering or reproach or cause of Jealousies to be raised upon or against others that are innocent, & singly desire the preservation safety & peace of all Friends in Truth & innocency towards all Men.

Kings & Governours.

1692

1692 This Meeting was well satisfied and very glad in the sense they had of the Innocency & peaceable Life of the Body of our Friends in general towards the civil Government under which we live and enjoy our present Liberties in the peaceable exercise of our Consciences towards Almighty God: to whom we are humbly thankfull for the same being obliged to remember ourselves not only as a gratefull people but as a Christian Society to live peaceably & inoffensively under the present Government as we have always done under the various revolutions of Government ever since we were a people according to our ancient Christian principle & practice in which we hope we shall ever persevere to the end of our Days according as we are enjoined by our peaceable Saviour Christ Jesus and the Christian advice of his faithfull Servants & Ministers among us we being a people clear in the Sight of God from all evil designes plots & Conspiracies whatsoever and hope in God that we shall continue a people always pure in the Sight of God having nothing but Love & good will to all Men: for which end we earnestly desire & hope that a Christian care may not be wanting among you for the preservation of our whole Society in that innocent Life & peaceable Conversation which is agreeable to our Christian profession wherein we have from the beginning [principle] of our Society and yet are with God in Unity to be our defence being fully persuaded this our ancient Christian Testimony publickly owned among us none can gainsay nor any faithfull Friends to God & Christ can ever decline it, being assured our God will in his own due time remove all offences & causeless Jealousies & Reproaches tending to cloud our Innocency and will set his own Glorious & peaceable Kingdome of his dear Son over all.

Christ: ye advancement of ye Gospel favour of the Government

to live peaceably under it &c

Kings & Governors.

1695

1695 See parliament page 197.

1698

1695 This Meeting understanding that some of the Government have reported that some persons who are called Quakers have used means to induce Kings to take up their Goods without paying the Customs & Duties which the Law hath laid upon them whereby the King is defrauded of his right.

Contrary against defrauding the Government

This Meeting therefore declares it to be the judgment of Truth and the mind that all such practices are evil and that if any person who professeth Truth should be guilty thereof, such persons would thereby go out of Truth and act contrary thereunto.

1703

1703 Advised to avoid all Indirect & unwarrantable Methods both in Trade & Merchandizing whereby the Government may be defrauded of its due that so no reproach may be brought upon our holy profession by such things.

not to defraud the government

1705

1705 Since the Lord in his providence has in some measure seen fit to give them favour with the Government it is desired that Friends would continue with all humility to walk worthy of that mercy and improve the same by a gentle & peaceable conversation to which all men in their respective places is exhorted.

Friends carry themselves after the Government

1709

1709 Advised not to put any abuse on the Government by endeavouring to diminish any of the Customs Excise or any other publick Civil Dues.

Yet if any young under age profession should happen to be so far tempted thro Carelessness & the love of vanities &c to be drawn into any such evil we desire you will deal with such persons to make them sensible of their evil ways & pernicious practices that so by

not to diminish Customs &c

Kings & Governours

profession may not be blemished thereby: nor any offence given nor injury done by being concerned in prohibited Goods, or wrecks unrightfully taken away from the just owners

of being concerned in prohibited Goods & wrecks

1715

1715 • As the Religion both we profess teacheth us to do justly unto all Men in all things, even more especially in a pinfull subjection to the Government in all Godliness and honesty, continuing to render unto the King what is his due in Taxes & Customs payable to him according to Law.

1719

1719 • As our Testimony hath ever been & still is against the defrauding the King of any of his Customs, Duties or Taxes by buying Goods unwarrantably unspected to be run, exporting Wool or any other Goods prohibited by Law, or doing any other thing whatsoever to the injury of the Kings Revenues or of the common Stock or to the hurt of fair Traders so if any person or persons who are our Name and profession shall be known to be guilty of the like or any such Crimes & Offences, we do earnestly advise the respective Monthly Meetings to which such Offenders belong, that they severally reprehend and testify against such Offenders and their unwarrantable clandestine and unlawfull Actions, & admonish them to make restitution for the wrong done to the Government in the holy profession by us.

against defrauding the King of his Customs exporting Wool or other Goods prohibited by Law

Offenders to be testified against

1725

1725 The Advice of 1719 repeated.

1723.

1723 See Questions, page 219.

Kings & Governors

1736

1736 Advised, that Friends behave with all dutifulness & gratitude, and especially to discountenance every the least appearance of indecent freedom, or mark of Dissatisfaction in Word or Writing, relating to the Government.

1732

1732 It is very acceptable to us to find by the Accounts from the several parts of the Kingdom that according to former Exhortations of this Meeting Friends continue generally carefull not to defraud the King of his Customs Duties or Excise, and so far to discourage such practices as to avoid dealing in Goods reasonably suspected to be run, this is a care highly commendable, & no doubt incumbent on every honest Subject, but as the Government hath signally favoured us in our religious Liberties, we are under the greater obligations of gratitude, as well as duty to manifest that we are wholly conscientious to render to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, as to support any other Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1738

1738 The last Years Advice again recommended.

1734

1734 We are glad to hear by the Accounts received that Friends are generally found in the practice of this Christian Duty of rendering to Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's and do earnestly recommend a strict Care for the continuance of the same in every Branch of the Kings Revenue.

1735

1735 The Advice we have received of the great Care of Friends to keep clear from defrauding the King in any Branch of his Revenue, are very acceptable to us, & hold it our indispensible Duty with regard to Kings & all that are in authority, to lead a quiet & peaceable Life in all godliness & honesty.

1736

Kings & Governors

1736

1736 By Accounts from the several Counties, we do not understand but that Friends are clear from the practice of running Goods or defrauding the King of his Customs or Revenues, we earnestly recommend the continuance of that necessary Duty, & desire that Friends every where may be careful to discourage such practices, which are not only unjust but also inconsistant with that gratitude, which as we are a people ought to express towards a Government to which chiefly & gracefully we are obliged for the priviledges we enjoy.

1736 Finally Brethren, we recommend you to the direction and guidance of the unerring Spirit of Truth within, and the excellent precepts & Instructions of the holy Scriptures without, which if you shall diligently take heed unto, you will not fail (every prayerfully instructed in the great duties of Worship to adore God the Maker and Author of all our Mercies, of Fidelity and Subjection to the Government which his wonderful providence has set over us, of Love and peace among yourselves, & of Justice & Benevolence towards all Men.

1736

1736 It was the sense of this Meeting at the Yearly Meeting held at Burlington the 6th of 5th month, That where there is a matter referred to this Meeting relating to Friends signing Commissions to support the Military Affairs, it is the Judgment & Conclusion of this Meeting that it is contrary to our principles and whosoever shall presume to give or sign such Commissions acts contrary to our principles and the ancient Testimony of Friends.

Signing Commissions for Military Affairs

Kings & Governours.

Law.

No. 2 Concerning Law.

1675

1675 As the Meeting doth not enjoin, impose upon
Friends to be restrained from seeking redress at law or not
or inforce any by-bodies or Officers to take course at
Law for a remedy in matters of meum & tuum
nor to use the Law in any case: but rather leaves to the
Sufferers to use such means in concert with the Body
of Friends, & their own peace & satisfaction in the Truth
and in the Gaining a faithfull Testimony in Righteousness

not to reflect upon one another therefor.

That Friends be not apt to judge or reflect upon one
another in this case, as to any fault upon any
gent occasions to take such course for relief & ease
to the oppressed as may not be prejudicial to the Truths Testimony.

to advise with their Meeting

That if any Friend or Friends apprehend
necessity to endeavour for relief by the Law of the Land
and to use the Attorneys &c. they first inform about
their Case with their respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, at least with some of the principle
Friends relating thereto.

That Friends who suffer be advised not to let
out their Minds into too much expectation of redress
to be had by Friends here on pretence of Law but that they
judiciously & principally depend upon the Lord for Counsel
or to plead their Cause.

1676

1676 That Friends be very careful of medling with
Suits in the Law because of the many temptations
in proceeding but if the Law be actually commenced
against the severity of it carried by our Prosecutors: that
Friends in Gods Wisdom use their Liberty upon
serious and good Advice among themselves, so as
the Truth & its Testimony may be kept clear over
all.

Law

1693, 1696, 1697.

1693
1696
1697 See Arbitrations, page 9, 10 & 11, 12.

1698

1698 See Kings Governours, page 87.

1720, 1725, 1787

1720
1725
1787 See Arbitrations, page 13, 14 & 15.

1718

1718 At a Monthly Meeting in Philadelphia the 2d of the 2d month 1718 It was Minuted that whereas Complaint was made to this Meeting that persons professing with us have proved so base & unworthy as when they have run themselves into debt, to remove themselves or their Effects to prevent justice, whereby those Creditors who are Friends have been deprived of an opportunity of the common Method of Friends specified in the Minute aforesaid.

vide Arbitrations pa. 11.

refers to a Minute in 1693 &c. Arbitrations p. 12. 13.

It is hereby declared that the last paragraph of this minute, which prohibits Friends to sue or implead one another is not intended to prevent such evil persons in their practices from being dealt with by a legal process, as the nature of the Case may require in which circumstance the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings on the proper Judges of it is not doubted but they will do justice to the parties concerned therein.

This Meeting doth request every Monthly Meeting to appoint the Legal proper persons out of their several Meetings for such Friends as may have occasion to advise with in the intervals of Monthly Meetings, who if they see Cause, to give Liberty to prove as above.

Dam.

Love.

No. 18. Concerning Love.

1703

1703 See Discipline page 86.

1718

1718 See Yearly Meeting page 365.

1730

1730 Among all the Gospel precepts we find not any thing more strongly & frequently recommended by our Lord Jesus Christ and his Apostles to the primitive Believers, than that they should Love one another, & as we are sensible that nothing will more contribute to the peace & prosperity of the Church than a due regard to this Advice, so we earnestly desire that it may be the care and concern of all Friends every where to dwell therein & in the unity of the holy Spirit to maintain Love, Concord & peace in & among all the Churches of Christ.

1731. See Scriptures page 285.

1734. 1735 See Discipline page 87.

1735. 1736 See Disputes page 91.

1736.

Lotteries

Lotteries
1710

This Meeting being Informed a mighty concern on account of the prevailing Evil Amongst divers professing with us of being concerned in Lotteries, this Meeting therefore can do no less than Earnestly recommend to the Several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings that they do Advise such of their Members as are Concerned any way therein that they Desist from the same for the future.

For Which Advice and Caution Mention is Made in the Book of Advices &c distinctly Written

Marriage.

No. 19. Concerning Marriage.

1675

1675 against Marriage with near Kindred.

It is our Living Sense & Judgment in the Truth of God, that not only those Marriages of near Kin Kind expressly forbidden in the Law ought not to be practiced under the Gospel, but that as much as any Marriage of near Kindred in the times of the Law was in condemnation, and upon that account as far as upholding their Tribes are but the nearer that Marriage were the more unholy they were accounted.

Particularly first Cousins.

We in our Day ought not to approach one near kin wise in any wise with respect particularly to first Cousins being redeemed out of those kindreds Tribes & Nations (for the upholding publick marriages where the kindred were once dispensed with) are brought to that spiritual Dispensation which gives Dominion over the Affections, and bends to those Marriages which are more natural and of better Report: and the more thought Weighty have been known to such Marriages (which being done must not be broken) yet let not their practice be any president or example to any others amongst us for the time to come.

To avoid or violate any Engagement not to be allowed.

That such Friends as have with mature Advice, due deliberation free and joynt consent as in the sight of God and unity of their Friends Truly understanding espouse or contract upon the account of Marriage, shall not be allowed from time to time on any unfaithfulness or injustice one to another to break or violate any such Contract or engagement, which is to the reproach of Truth & injury one of another: and where any such Injury happens a Relation of such unjust Contract & Engagement & Breach thereof is duly & strictly required to be made by the Injured to the Monthly Meeting of Friends Men & Women in their respective Meetings to which the parties belong to appear at & signify it to Friends there: we in the Wisdom & counsel of God & to put

Marriage

1690 a step & expose one thereto and bring Gods Power & his Judgment that I ever them may have appeared in this Case, until they come to unfeigned Repentance.

Consent of parents to be first had

And further we advise & exhort that no engagements made without honest Endeavours to obtain & due regard first had to the Counsel and consent of Parents Relations & Friends be countenanced that so all foolish and unbridled affections and all ensnaring & selfish ends be not so much as found among you on any hand.

Is to be three publish'd at least before meetings (of which) and accomplished publickly

It is our judgment that for better satisfaction to all parties and that there may be due time for enquiry of Clearness of the persons concerned it is convenient that Marriages be at least three times proposed to the Meetings that are to take care thereof both to the Men's & Women's where both are established before they are accomplished and when things are clear that the Marriage be accomplished in a grave & publick Assembly of Friends & Relations.

1690

1690 Advised that Parents & Guardians of Children in the fear of God take special Care to prevent those under their Charge from being ensnared or entangled with any upon the Account of Marriage before all things relating to their outward Estates be fully agreed on both parties that undue Courtship may be made upon the account of external things to the hurt & prejudice of young People.

Care to be taken to prevent Children before Marriage

And we do also in the Name of the Lord advise and admonish all [illegible] kept among Friends that they [illegible] or proceedings [illegible]

Marriage.

1690 young persons to consult their parents & wait their consent and the first day of the week to marry & the manner &c

of Marriage to Wait first & principally their Parents or Guardians thereunto & duly waiting upon them for their Consent and agreement therein and we do also advise, that in the first place all young Persons concerned seriously wait upon the Lord for Counsel and clearness in this weighty concern before they make any motion or proceed with any in order to Marriage, that the Lord may be in their eye so as they may not be led by any forward, brittle or unwatchful Affections in this great concern to their own hurt, grief of their Friends, and dishonour of Truth.

monthly & quarterly meetings to be careful & mind the preservation & good of Children in this matter as here proposed & signified & not omit giving due & faithfull Warnings & admonitions in this great & weighty Concern

1691

1691 concerning orderly proceedings

And whereas great Care be taken about Marriages, for the consent of parents ought to be had, & by publication thereof in a meeting of the parties in a meeting appointed for that end & purpose, & on Week Day Meetings, which method is convenient and commendable as it has been lately made appear to the Eye of the Government and well approved.

See 1676 p. 131 Friends to be mindful of their Meetings former Advices against marrying with near Kindred and against marrying by priests and with persons of the world unequally & against too early & unsavory proceedings in second Marriages after the death of Husband or Wife contrary to the due method & practice of faithfull Friends in Truth, and tending to the dishonour and Reproach thereof.

too early a second time.

1693

Marriage

1692

1692 Advised. That all such as profess the truth among Friends do publish their Intentions of Marriage at two sundry Monthly Meetings at least or at two sundry two Weeks Meetings in such places where they are settled before they solemnize the same, that convenient time may be allowed Friends concerned for enquiry & satisfaction concerning the consent of parents and guardians, and their clearness from all scandal and encumbrets. that Friends may own and stand by their proceedings before the Government and all in Authority what otherwise they cannot if they proceed not in the due & orderly publication and methods of Truth settled among Friends, being a matter greatly inquired into, truly warrantable and to be stood by.

to be proposed to two Monthly Meetings or to two Weeks Meetings

See 1691 p. 133. 1695 p. 132.

1695

1695 And that all diligent Care and Caution be had that no Friend or Friend's Children be betrayed by affection or otherwise nor joined in Marriage with those who are not of our Christian profession, and Society nor without the privity and Consent of Parents, Guardians, or Lawful Elders entrusted with them: nor with any near Kindred contrary to the Law of God, and wholesome advice already given them particularly by a Yearly Meeting's Epistle 1695, and otherwise by the faithful Servants of Christ.

married with those of our profession or without consent of Parents or Guardians

1707

1707 We being sensible of the hurt that may happen by persons amongst the profession of Truth entering into the affections one another without the Friendly & consent of Parents or Guardians do for preventing

having entered into the single state of affections

1707 ing such Mischief & Loose & vain conversation & Judgment
for young that in case any person reputed a Quaker shall endea-
persons vour to entangle the Affection of any young Woman
about professing Truth, or shall make suit unto her in order
marriage to Marriage without the privity & consent of her parents
not to be or Guardians first had and obtained whether such parents
allowed. or Guardians be Friends or not, that such persons ought
not to be allowed or permitted to proceed in any meeting
of Friends, in order to the accomplishing such intended
Marriage untill they shall have removed the offence
and given satisfaction both to such parents or guar-
dians and to the Meeting of Friends to which they do belong
by an open and due acknowledgement of the offence and
Condemnation of themselves therein, and shall have ob-
tained the Consent of such parents or Guardians.

Parents And it is further advised that after parents
not to Guardians have suffered their Children to engage one
break off another in Affections they do not break off upon any
suddenly account but still wait upon & seek the Lord
for their Children in proposals of Marriage before they
give any encouragement thereunto.

1708

1708 Advised to be carefully & Zealously concerned
for our ancient Christian Testimony against Mixt
Marriages, that none of your Children may be oc-
casion'd are alienated from the Truth thereby.

1709

1709 With respect to a proposal of Marriage between
Second Cousins, this Meeting does not see it is not fit
Cousins for Friends to encourage any such Marriages in any
of our Meetings.

1710

1710 We advise that due care be upon all pa-
rents and Guardians of Children and youth to watch
over them & tenderly to exhort them to seek the Lord
in that weighty affair of Marriage, and to wait up-
on him in the Light for Counsel & direction, this holy
Spirit & true fear & concern that such thing may be
upon them. In order to which let none make the

Suit

Marriage.

1710 Earnestly the Will of God, & their duty, that all
not to marry for Wealth, or for Beauty, or for Contrary: and that
& Wealth the grounds of their Choice
they would seek the Lord by Prayer, that his Blessing may rest in
their Families, and they may be
exercise in the Church of Christ.

1715

1715 See plainness, page 205

1718

1718 This Testimony against running into excessive
against Sumptuous & costly Entertainments at marriages Feasts
Sumptuous Entertainments
was a great part of what was to be taken especially in
relieving the Necessities of the poor.

1719

1719 In order to put a stop to an unwise Liberty in
Liberty to prevent
contracting Marriages with such as are not of our
Society, it is advised that all Parents & Guardians
of Children, do take special care as much as in them
lies to prevent their Children from running into such
Marriages: and that Friends of each particular Meeting
or else of the Monthly Meeting to which such persons
belong to or the Wisdom and power of Truth use
their endeavours to put a Stop to the said Evil, by admo-
nishing such as may attempt to marry as aforesaid, to de-
sist before they accomplish the same.

And if they refuse to take counsel or possibly proceed
as if any to marry contrary to the Advice given them as aforesaid, that then such persons be dealt with according to the good order of Truth & Judgment pass upon all such as take such an undue liberty.

1722

1722 Parents who have Children to dispose of in
Parents & Children
marriage, are lovingly advised, not to make it
their first or chief care to obtain for them large
portions or Settlements of Marriage, but rather be
careful that their Children be joined in marriage
with persons of Religious exemplary, stable, pru-
dent & virtuous character & of sound Judgment

1722 Against mixt Marriages

in Business which are things essentially necessary to a comfortable life in a married state and carefully to guard against all mixt marriages, & unequal yoking of their Children therein

1723

1723 Children to be free with Parents or Guardians

It parents have a natural right to approve of and consent to the marriage of their Children, so this meeting doth earnestly advise, that Friends Children would consult & advise with their parents and Guardians in that great and weighty point, so essential to their happiness and comfort before they let out their Minds or so entangle their Affections, the too frequent Examples that have happened to the contrary hereof, have caused Lamentation in honest parents, & great Affliction to themselves.

1724

1724 to prevent ill designing persons from entangling the Affections of Youth

Advised, that Care be taken in enquiring to Marriages to prevent ill designing persons in their endeavours to entangle the Affections of our Youth in relation to marriage, the unhappy disobedience of some therein having frequently brought great Affliction on their tender parents. the mischief in themselves and on this occasion we again tenderly desire, that parents or Guardians do not make unduly Rules of their own or cause of Consent in marriage.

1727

1727 The Advice in the year 1695. repeated

1730

1730 The good Order of Friends relating to Marriage to be maintained

We also recommend the good order of Friends relating to marriage, that it be carefully observed and duly maintained in the first and subsequent proceedings leading thereunto, as well as the orderly solemnization thereof. If any persons contrary to the reputed Rules and established order of Friends, shall undertake to accomplish marriages by the assistance of a Priest or Minister, without the consent of the monthly meeting to which they belong: such proceeding being of a clandestine nature

tending

Marriage.

1730 tending to make void the just Care of Friends in that Case, such as of give others among the people occasion that the Monthly Meeting doth not fail to testify against the practice, as well as against the persons concerned therein.

1731

1731 And we do exhort Friends every where, that in the great concern of Marriage, whereon much of the Comfort and Happiness of Life depends, they be mindfull to proceed in the fear of the Lord, and have an Eye to Him for Counsel & Instruction in their Choice, the neglect of which has been the ruin of many Families, and tends much to the reproach & Dishonour of our holy profession.

1738

See the printed Epistle of 1738.

1745

1761 This Meeting having deliberately considered the great Exercise brought upon our Society by divers in profession with us who contrary to our Principles & that wholesome Discipline established amongst Friends do Marry by the priests with those not in communion with us, the same who profess with us join in marriage in the same manner. It is therefore earnestly requested of all Friends that they use their utmost Endeavours to prevent all such Marriages wherever the parties Intentions may come to their Knowledge and the Monthly Meetings where such Marriages may happen impartially deal with the Offenders for their unbecoming Conduct as the Wisdom of Truth may direct to be true first fruits of their sincerely praying the Labour of Friends shall have a good effect that they

1758 they in sincerity give as Testimony under their hands, condemning their said practice to the satisfaction of the Monthly Meeting. In such Case Friends are desired to use tenderness towards them, but if the Christian care of Friends do not prevail to bring them to a true sense of their Error, then the Monthly Meeting is hereby directed to give forth as Testimony against such for the clearing of Truth & Friends.

And it is the Sense of this Meeting that where any marry contrary to the Rules of our Society as aforesaid, their Collection shall not be received by any Meeting, nor they be relieved in the manner of poor Friends, nor be admitted to sit in Meetings of Discipline until they are restored into unity with the Monthly Meeting to which they formerly belonged, yet it is the unity of this Meeting to leave it to the Charity of Friends in their particular Capacities to extend it when and where they shall see meet.

1758

1758 This Meeting having deliberately considered the great exercise brought upon our Society by divers in profession with us who contrary to our known principles and the wholesome Discipline established among us are joined in marriage by the priest with persons either of our own or of other professions, do unanimously direct that all Friends of this Meeting endeavours to prevent such marriages whenever the parties Inclinations may come to their knowledge.

And it is the Sense and Judgment of this Meeting that where any do marry by the priest or in other manner contrary to the established rules of this Society, they shall be dealt with in a Spirit of Christian Love and Tenderness agreeable to our known Discipline

And that after the Commissioners of such Marriages shall have duly dealing their Collection shall not be received nor they be relieved in the manner of poor Friends, nor be admitted to sit in Meetings of Discipline until they are restored into unity with the Monthly Meeting to which they belong.

And

Such who do marry in any manner contrary to our Rules

Marriage.

1744

To deal in due time with such & all others disorderly Walkers

And we earnestly advise all Friends that you watch diligently over one another for good, and that you deal in due time with such offenders and all others that walk disorderly, in endeavouring to reclaim & restore them by brotherly admonition & counsel; but where after patient waiting you find that your continued labour of Love hath not it's desired effect: that you neglect not to testify against and discern such persons thereby preventing the reproach and dishonour which might be brought upon our holy profession thro their misconduct: and that the end and design of Friends in settling a wholesome Discipline among us may be answered.

Which is substitute in lieu of the Minute made in 1718. respecting Marriages by Priests.

1718

1718 See Meetings for Discipline pa 162

1737

1737 This Meeting on receiving a Minute relating to Marriage of persons neare of kin, having taken into consideration the Yearly Meeting Minute of 1736 made against such Marriages, and particularly of first Cousins to be laid before this Meeting our judgment that no Monthly Meeting or other Meeting whatsoever should passe first Cousins in order for Marriage, and this Meeting earnestly desires all Friends wherever they have any first or more Cousins designing or intending to marry that they immediately desist the same.

against Marriages

1744 pa 135

Marriage.

1719

1719 near Skin pa 131. 133. pa 134. 135.

Upon a Proposition received, Laying before this Meeting of Friends a Committee to consider of the same, who brought in the following Report to what after being twice read, the Meeting agreed, viz.

We your Committee appointed to consider the Paper relating to Marriage have accordingly, and having considered the same, and examined the Scripture, referred to are unanimously of Opinion, that the Yearly Meeting Minutes 16th 5th 1717 are to be strictly adhered to

N. B. Signed 3d 8th 3. mo 1719 by 43 Friends.

1731

Agreed & concluded on by the yearly meeting at Newport on Rhode Island, That it is an Inconsistency in friends conduct, in allowing their members to join People in marriage after the manner of the world. And it is the mind of this meeting, That if any member be found in the Practice thereof for the future, He be dealt with as a Transgressor.

1772

The following was agreed and concluded on by the Yearly meeting of Rhode Island, viz.

It is our Sense & Judgment that Our Discipline forbids the marriage of Brothers Children, Sisters Children; half Brothers Children half Sisters Children; And a first Cousins Child, And all persons nearer than a second Cousin. And that they are advised to desist therefrom. And if any Persons notwithstanding should proceed in marriage together nearer than a second Cousin: Being previously admonished & advised against it: That the Monthly meeting where such belong, Give forth a Publick Testimony against them: And not to receive such into unity again until such meetings are well assured, that they have found a place of Sincere Repentance, And are received in the Truth.

Marriage

1773

It is our present sense & Judgment upon the Query from Rhode Island Quarterly meeting: Whether it be consistent with Truth for any friend to marry with a deceased wife's sister or deceased husband's brother: That friends be careful to give timely advice & admonition against such a procedure, And if any should be reluctant thereto, and proceed in marriage: That such be without delay Denied membership & disowned as having committed a Heinous offence & transgression: And that such be not admitted to membership again in the Society until friends shall be satisfied that they are received in the Truth.

1776 Coming people thereof to the Manner of the World see Discipline page 95. — in Phila 1777

1772 Also was Kept & ordered that our Discipline

1774 forbids this. As to the Matter from Dartmouth Monthly Meeting Relateing Marriage with Near Kin: We apprehend the Rule of the Society very clear & good in that respect — And that it ought to be Strictly attended to, for Dartmouth nor any other Monthly Meeting has not to Marry Nearer of Kin than is Mentioned in the Discipline.

1778 It is our Judgment that the Business proposed Laying Intentions & Receiving Answers in Case of Marriage in the Monthly Meetings, is a Necessary part of the Church Business: And that they ought to be elected in the same manner & for the same time as other Standing Committees & Officers of the Church.

Marriage

1778 Orderly persons may be admitted to attend that part of the Business, provided they ask the Consent of the Meeting at the time.

1. We have also considered the proposal on the 7th Query respecting what time shall be supposed to be too early for proposals of Marriage. — It is our judgment that it is Advisable for Friends not to Make or admit of Proposals of Marriage in less than twelve Months after the Decease of former husband or wife.

1772 And that Care be taken for persons coming from the Monthly Meeting to an Other in Order to Inforce their intentions of Marriage, that they bring a Certificate with them to the first Monthly Meeting from the Monthly Meeting where they Belong signifying their parents or Guardians Consent, & that they have Acquaintance with their Conversation & Disposition-ment with Other persons

Meeting-Houses.

No 20: Concerning Meeting-Houses.

1691

1691 All Meeting houses to be entered according to Law

Advised. That all and every your Meeting house and mansion houses where Meetings are or may be, be entered upon record as the Law directs, such particularly as having men both the Scrive and safety thereof and the hurt & danger that may come by the omission.

1703

1703 Titles to be made secure

Advised that Friends in the several Quarterly & Monthly Meetings take special Care that the Titles of Friends Meeting-Houses & Burial Grounds be made secure according to Law. this Meeting understanding there is a deficiency in this respect in some places.

1737

1737

It having been represented to us that several parts of the Nation Losses have been sustained by not timely looking out and securing the Titles of Meeting Houses Burial-Grounds & Charitable Legacies & have thought fit to recommend it to the Care of Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to make timely inspection in what hands & Trust the same are vested & if they find Occasion by the Death of any Friend or Friends to add some others to the Trust. ~~so that Strangers to act some others to the~~ Trust so that Friends may not be deprived of the benefit of such Meeting-Houses & Burial-Grounds & that each Quarterly Meeting keep exact Records of all such Trusts & Conveyances.

Titles to be inspected & secured

& to keep Records thereof.

*

Meetings for Discipline.

No 25. Concerning Meetings for Discipline.

1675

1675 Of the Establishment of Men's & Women's Meetings

It is our Judgment & Testimony in the Word of God's Wisdom, that the rise & practice, setting up and establishment of Men's and Women's Meetings in the Church of Christ in this our generation, is according to the mind and counsel of God we love in the ordering and leading of his eternal Spirit and that it is the duty of all Friends & brethren in the power of God in the Spirit to be diligent therein, and to encourage & further each other in that blessed Work, and particularly that Friends & Brethren in their respective Counties encourage their faithfull and grave Women in the settlement of the said Meetings.

1676

1676 The authority & who have right thereunto

The power of God is the Authority of the Men's and the Women's Meetings, and of all the other Meetings.

All the faithfull Men & Women in every County, City & Nation, whose just Union is in the power of God the Gospel of Christ and have received this Gospel, and are in the possession of this Gospel, the power of God they have all right to the power of the Meeting for they be Heirs of the power & the Authority of the Men's and Women's Meetings.

1691

1691 Women's Meetings to be encouraged and set up

Advised to encourage the faithfull Women's Meetings and the settling them where they are wanting, and may with conveniency be settled having their Service, and what need there is of their godly care in the Churches of Christ in these weighty respects proper to them.

1693

1693 Contention & Strife in the Meetings it is the Advice & Sense of this Meeting.

That

Meetings for Discipline.

1693 1st That all Friends have a care of God's Glory and a tender thereof as hath been often advised.

2. That the authority of your Meetings in the power of God in unity of the holy Spirit whereby they were first raised and continue your Meetings and Business therein for the ends for which they were first Instituted.

3. That all Contentious & Jarring Reflections and Smitings out of your Meetings and keep down and out all Heats & Passions and doubtfull Disputations.

4. Suffer no turbulent contentious quarrelsome Spirit or person to be concerned among you in ordering your Affairs that they may be all managed in the peaceable tender Spirit & Wisdom of Christ Jesus.

5th Suffer no divisions or schisms or making parties among yourselves one against another for that will grieve the Spirit of God and cause your Meetings and Business to be slighted and the Truth it self to be evil spoken of.

6. That your Mens & Womens Meetings and your Monthly and Quarterly Meetings and your yearly Meetings and Meetings for Sufferings were set up in the Wisdom, Counsel & Power of God, and must come from the same to be kept up according to the Ends for which they were intended at first.

See Records page 255.

1696

1696 Let all your Affairs be managed in your Meetings in the peaceable Wisdom and Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ not striving but bearing one with another that the Power of Christ may rest upon you and rule in all your Assemblies.

1697

1697 That monthly and Quarterly Meetings keep to their antient order and rules of Discipline in the Church that all disorder & confusion may be prevented.

1700

Meetings for Discipline

1700

1700 Keep all your Meetings as well those for your
Church Christian Discipline as those not Spiritual
entirely for the Worship of God, in his Love and in ye Name
Power & peaceable Spirit of his dear Son Jesus Christ
which is the above true authority of all our Meetings for
without him we can do nothing, in his blessed Power
stand fast in righteous Judgment over all unruly and
disorderly Spirits that would break in upon us & good
Order and Discipline settled among us, as also over
those that seek to lay waste the Testimony of Truth &
cause the offence of the Cross to cease.

1703

1703 Our Monthly and Quarterly Meetings being set
up and established by the power & in the wisdom of God
which is the authority of those Meetings all Friends are
tenderly to wait and advise carefully & duly to attend
that Elderly who Heaven manage all the business &
affairs of the said Meetings in the fear of the
Lord to God & his Church and not to depend or lean
upon this Meeting for particular Directions from time
to time how they shall proceed in the management of
the Concerns of these Meetings relating to Truths
Testimony and service, but wait for and depend
upon the power & Wisdom of God for Counsel &
Direction in such matters as Occasion may come
before them which will be to the great ease of this Meeting
and dispatch of the proper Concerns thereof.
And let the Mans part and natural Wisdom and
Attainments be subject to the power and Spirit of God
which will truly edify the Body in Love, Righteous-
ness and Peace.

not to depend upon this Meeting for direction but upon the power & Wisdom of God

And if any do lose from or let fall any
Branch of their Testimony that such may be in the
Elderly Power & Authority of Truth to visit & admonish
them in the Spirit of Meekness & Love for their Recovery.

Such as do lose or let fall any Branch of their Testimony

1704

Meetings for Discipline

1704

1704 We tenderly recommend and desire that those Friends that are concerned in the management of the Affairs of the Church in the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings be carefull to act in the Wisdom of God, that they may be exemplary therein to those that are young, and that those that are worthy be carefull Members of those Meetings be diligent in attending the same; and that they will encourage such young Men & Women as they are sensible are qualified and made capable there waiting upon God, to serve Truth in your respective Meetings, that they may come up & stand in the life of righteousness to be serviceable in the Church, helpfull to ancient Friends & fitted to supply their places as such shall be removed.

1705

1705 We advised and desired that in all Monthly and Quarterly Meetings Friends take Care to manage the affairs of Truth in a calm meek and gentle Spirit without heats Disorder & contention, for if any seem to be contentious, we have no such Custom in the Churches of God 1 Cor. 11 16 and the Apostle's Advice also was that nothing should be done through Strife or vain Glory; but in Lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves and to all things without murmurings & Disputings, Philip. 2 & 14 Which Apostolical Counsel and good Order we desire may be kept to & carefully observed.

1706

1706 We advise to keep all Meetings both those for Divine Worship & those for good order & Discipline in

the

Meetings for Discipline

1706 the Church in the Name and power of our Lord Jesus Christ, which divine power we all might be wait to feel to prepare and sanctifie our minds & Spirits, that we may be duly Qualified for our Share in the Service wherein and in the heavenly power & Dominion same labour to keep out strife and contention, and stand over all forward and contentious Spirits not in your own but in the meek Spirit of the Lamb of God.

See Questions, page, 218.

1707

1707 Womens Meetings to be encouraged

Our Womens Meetings being set up and approved in the Love of God and by his Wisdom & power in some most Service & helpfull in the Church it is the mind & desire of this Meeting they may be upheld & encouraged where they are setled by monthly and Quarterly meetings and that in such Countries & places where they are not it be the Care of the Quarterly Meetings to endeavour they may be set up and encouraged in proper and convenient places where they may be most Serviceable & helpfull.

1709

1709 This Meeting desires that the Accounts of the poverty of Truth be that are brought in writing from the several Quarterly Meetings to this Meeting be signed or by Order of the Quarterly Meetings.

1713

1713 See preachers, page; 232.

1715

1715 No monthly Meeting to divide it self

Agreed that no Monthly Meeting shall be allowed to divide itself into two seperate Monthly Meetings then by reason of the Scarcity of Love or any other difference may there in that Meeting without the Consent or concurrence of the Quarterly Meeting

Elders and Overseers

and that none exercise Rule or Government in the Church as Elders or Overseers but such who are unblameable in conversation & example free from

Covetousness

Meetings for Discipline

1715 Elders & Overseers

Carelessness over teaching, oppression & extortion &c persons of ye same report, even among those who are without following those things so earnestly recommended by the holy Apostles Paul & Peter. Philip. 2:3 Let nothing be done thro Strife and vain Glory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves 1st Peter 5:2,3 feed the Flock of God which is among you taking the oversight thereof not by constraint but willingly not for filthy Lucre but of a ready mind, neither as being Lords over God's Heritage but being Examples to the Flock.

See Meetings for Worship page 172.

1717

17[illegible] Recommended that Friends be more especially such as are concerned in Meetings of Business for deliberation to know their own Spirits subject to the Spirit of Truth that thereby being baptized into one Body they may be truly one in the Examination of their Love and unity and that therein they may all labour to find a nearness to each other in Spirit: this being the true way to it through reconciliation wheresoever there is or may have been any difference of apprehension whereby Friends will be preserved in that sweetness of Spirit that Gain will be the bond of true peace throughout all the Churches of Christ.

1718

1718 Advised that nothing be done thro Strife and contention or vain Glory in governing or deciding but in the Spirit of Meekness, Love & humility every person looking on the members and the younger Brethren endeavour to know their places, as living Members for Edification & due regard to their Elders in Christ Jesus.

1719

Meetings for Discipline

1719

1719 Wrath to be kept down.

Advised in a particular manner when assembled for the Affairs of the Church that the truth of Man, which worketh not the Righteousness of God, may be kept down together with all exaltedness of Spirit and on the contrary, the Meekness & Wisdom of the Lamb may govern all Persons, as they in that way are like to perform the Affairs of the Church, whereby the many ~~the Meeting~~ are great Evils which often arise from exaltedness will be suppressed and prevented.

Epistles & documents to be read & approved before Signed.

And it is desired that the Epistles & Accounts of the Affairs of Truth sent to this Meeting from Yearly, Quarterly & monthly Meetings may first well be read and approved in the respective Meetings from whence they are sent before they be signed in behalf of the Meetings.

And see Yearly Meeting, pages 369.

1720

Advised to a unanimity in a very close & tender fellowship one with another in the Love of Truth, and therein watch against all Causes of Division or Breach of unity in any Quarterly Monthly or particular Meeting & the Dominion may continue & Zion inhabitation the Glory & presence of God may remain on her, and the Spirit & Nature of the Gospel may be lived in and maintained.

And we also recommend that such Friends as are concerned in the Affairs of the Church in the Quarterly Monthly & particular Meetings be careful to act therein in the Wisdom of God whereby they will be exemplary to the young who may be elected Members thereof and mind the same and in case any Persons are found to be guilty with a real sense of Truth upon their Spirits & subjection thereunto in the Meeting capable to come up to a service in their respective Meetings Friends are desired to encourage the Young Friends therein whereby they may be

better fitted

Meetings for Discipline.

1722 helpfull to the Ancients who brought up in a life of Righteousness & walk in fear to the praise of Gods holy Name in waiting in their Lot will supply the place of the Elders in such Meetings Where the same Spirit is not kept over.

1724

1724 Advise that Friends in Meetings of Business watch over their own Spirits that no indecent warmth get in whereby the conversation may be hurried & hindred from a regular Judgment in the affairs before the Meeting.

1726

1726 The former Advice in 1722 to avoid all occasions of Discord repeated.

We earnestly recommend to you whatever your places & Stations in the Church may be, that in the most weighty & serious manner you often call to remembrance in all humility of Mind what it was that brought us to be a people and what it will be that which will preserve us & that the Foundation on which a true Christian is built is the Spirit of Christ: & this therefore direct you in all things both respecting your private Conversation and whatsoever you do for God in his Church this is the only rule Man's to preserve you holy & blameless in the one as well as orderly & usefull in the other in this every one will have a single regard to the Service that comes before him in Monthly & Quarterly Meetings without partiality or respect of persons.

Here the Counsel to you Brethren & Friends righteously to observe one Man's testimony and the Charge that we can't have you shall not respect persons in judgment but you shall hear the small

Sundings for Discipline

1726 as well as of Gerad, you shall not be assistant of the Just of
. Nay for the Judgment is Gods, Deut. 1: 16 17. . Live in the
Management of such affairs they will find their own Spi
rits rightly qualified & prepared for every Work & Service
to which they may be called, and all disorderly proceedings
arising from the heat of our own Spirits will thereby be
shut out, and thus the Church will be preserved on her
ancient Solid & permanent Foundation to the glory of
God; and her own Quiet & Comfort.

1727

1727 Ordered to acquaint the Quarterly Meetings
that his the mind of this Meeting that all Minutes &
Epistles from this Meeting be entered & kept by them
in a fair Book, that all Friends of their Counties
or Meetings may have recourse to them as occasion
shall require.

This . Meeting understanding it to have
been the antient Constant Sense of Friends in the
exercise of y Discipline that is established among us
That any person denied by a Monthly Meeting is
to judge as Disowned by Friends not to stand & re
main in that state till by his repentance & the recon
cile of such Conduct by a superior Meeting he is recon
ciled to Friends or reinstated in membership among
them: with which this Meeting hath only therefore ratifies & confirms the same

See Morning Meeting of Ministers, fo. 181.

1730

1730 And forasmuch as divers failures in
respect to Drunkenness may have happened by persons of
other Nations in the Church, this Meeting believes
it as their Judgment that no such persons shall
appear in publick as Ministers or act or act in
any affair of the Church, Monthly & Quarterly
Meetings, till they have given such Meetings they
belong to satisfaction.

And that Friends in their respective Mee
tings take due care to deal with all such persons in a

† See Correspondents fo: 67.

Dissidents

regular

Meetings for Discipline

1736 regular Way, agreable to the Discipline of the Church
Have established among Friends by publickly ma-
nifesting their disunity with such person or persons
agreable to the Nature and Circumstance of the Case.

'Tis recommended to all Quarterly & month-
ly Meetings to watch carefully over their Mem-
bers that no where any root of bitterness shall ap-
pear that would bring forth Envy, Strife, Emula-
tion & Hatred, and thereby our holy Unity in the
Spirit be broken, they do use timely & earnest
Endeavours to prevent and remove the same,
whereby we may be preserved a people to the pra-
ry of God, and in that perfect Love & Unity which
will demonstrate us to be the Deciples of Christ.

1781

1738 Advised that Friends every where in an espe-
cial manner take care to keep up the good Order
in Discipline of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings
in that Spirit of Love and divine Wisdom in
which they were at first constituted, that therein
every thing may be managed to the praise of God,
and the preservation of his Church & people with-
in the Bounds & limits of his Blessed Truth, this
we are sensible has been as Means under divine
Direction to keep many hurtfull things out of the
Church and therefore we are sincerely concerned
that nothing may weaken the hands of Friends
in this good Work but that it may be carried on
for the support of our Christian Testimony in all
its Branches.

1782

1782 Advised that young Friends who are sober
& well inclined be encouraged to attend the Service
of Monthly & Quarterly Meetings: and that all
Friends in such Meetings endeavour to feel the pre-
cious Truth that their minds be seasoned with a Sense of
the wholesome Discipline of the Church may be maintained
entirely from an Operation to animate & help such
as are weak.

And

Meetings for Discipline

¶82 dealing with offenders

And for the dealing with all persons offending we recommend that Friends in their said Meetings be carefull to Labour in the Spirit of Love & meekness regularly and impartially for the help and reclaiming of all such: and if after such labour of Love, there appears no ground to hope for repentance and reformation in such offenders reproachfull nature, that they proceed to testify against such practices and those also as concurr therein.

None to be discarded without dealing

That no Monthly Meeting disown or testify against any of their Members without first dealing with such Offenders where such Offence can be conveniently met with or Spoke to.

Papers to the Yearly Meeting to be signed

See Yearly Meeting, page 362

¶83

¶83 This Meeting being under a Weighty concern & exercise to observe that the many wholesome advices recommended to the care of Friends in the many places of their residence is not enough practiced in particularly those against Tithes, Church Rates, wakes, the priests maintenance, also keeping up to justice in dealing plainness of Speech and several other Branches of our Christian Testimony, we therefore again recommend to Friends in their several Monthly Meetings to take special care to appoint prudent and judicious Friends to visit their Brethren in their Families pursuant to former advice in the Epistle 1708 ¶ 5.

Monthly meetings to appoint Friends to visit Families

See the paragraph 1708 under the head Inspection

See ¶ 29 under the head Examining into the State

herewith sent you.

And that such Friends labour faithfully in a Spirit of Love & Meekness to convince the Judgments of their respective Members of the necessity of their walking up with their brethren in practice agreeable to our Christian principle that so the sweet Influences of the Testimony which Truth hath given our Friends with us to bear may be maintained inviolable.

Inc

Sittings for Discipline

1733 Said we do herewith also send the Minutes of the Meeting of 1675 1703 & 1706.

1675 See 1675 under the head Tithes fo 328
1703 1703 under the same fo 325
1706 1706 under the same fo 326

So far as they are relative thereunto, and desire you may record them in your Quarterly & Monthly Meeting Books that you may have recourse thereto on all occasions: and we also advise that the same be read frequently in our Meetings of Business, that Friends may be fully informed of them.

Diligently to attend Meetings for Discipline

And how Friends in the promotion of Piety & Charity is the one excellent end of our Meetings for the Discipline of the Church, a weighty concern remains upon us, that Friends be careful, diligently to attend those Meetings in which they are to act in the Wisdom given them of God with a real living sense of truth upon their Spirits, that in the Affairs of the Church they may be carried on in Brotherly Love, and in that sweet calm and Christian disposition of mind which tends to the mutual comfort & edification one of another, and of the Church in General.

1731

Youth to be encouraged to attend Meetings for Discipline

Whereas the number of Friends attending the Service of Monthly and Quarterly Meetings for Discipline of the Church is but small in many places we have cause that Elders would give all due encouragement to such younger Friends as may evince a desire & disposition to attend the Service of those Meetings, that so being trained to the management of the Affairs of the Church in the Fear of

Wor-

Meetings for Discipline

1734 their Elders they may be y better Qualified to succeed them & Honour & to supply their places when occasion requires.

1735 (See)

Propositions to the Yearly Meeting to be signed.

See Yearly Meeting page 364.
See also Discipline page 87.

1736

1736 And lastly Dear Friends Brethren & Sisters we do

Youth to be encouraged &c

desire you to encourage one another & all ye Youth under your Care & Inspection to be frequent at Meetings & Quarterly Meetings that they may come to that which is Ashern for the Maintenance of our Testimony & the preservation of our Christian Discipline in the World & be more diligent in their respective Meetings for Worship & that they be encouraged not to be satisfied with that poor Custom of Sitting Silent in their Meetings for Worship

to attend meetings for Worship

& Silent attendance of our Meetings for Worship not only on the first Day but also on the other Days of the Week

See Appeals page 3.

1737

1737 And dear Friends that the Affairs of our Society may continue to be managed in the meek and peaceable Wisdom of truth the Elders of each Monthly Meeting have an Eye upon the young Men and consider their Conversations & publications and growth in the Truth and make report of such as are Sober Hopefull, to the Meetings for Business in the Affairs of the Church, that they may be more improved in the Knowledge of the Discipline of the Church and become Instrumentall to the Service of God, his Truth & people.

1738

1738 And as much as in you lieth that the Business of your Monthly Meetings be managed by persons who are well grounded in the principles of Truth and capable of Counselling the Managers thereof & such as know not their own Spirits seasoned

by

Meetings for Discipline

1738 by the Work of Truth in the Ministers but where you observe any young persons of a grave & solid deportment and inclineable to be helpfull in the Church discourage them not but on the contrary to bring them forward in the service of Truth according to their respective abilities for so weighty a Work.

1740

1740 See Records, page 257.

1748

1748 See Poor - page 225.

1763

1763 Agreed that when a Quarterly Meeting have come to a judgment respecting any difference subsisting between any Monthly Meeting belonging to them & notifie the same in writing to such Monthly Meeting the said Monthly Meeting ought to submit to the judgment of the Quarterly Meeting. And if such monthly meeting shall not be satisfied therewith then the Monthly Meeting may appeal to the Yearly Meeting against the Judgment & determination of their Quarterly Meeting.

And if a Monthly Meeting shall refuse to take the Advice and submit to the Judgment of the Quarterly meeting & return Answer they will not appeal against the Determination of the said Meeting to the Yearly Meeting in such Case it is agreed the Quarterly Meeting shall be at Liberty either to dissolve such Monthly Meeting or bring the Affair before the next succeeding Yearly Meeting.

And in Case a Quarterly Meeting shall dissolve a Monthly Meeting the dissolved Monthly Meeting, or any part thereof in the Name of the said Meeting shall be at

Liberty

Meetings for Discipline.

1703 liberty to appeal to the next, or ensueing Yearly Meeting against such Disolutions, but if the Dissolved Monthly Meeting or a part thereof in its behalf, shall not appeal to the Yearly Meeting, it is then our Opinion that the Quarterly Meeting shall join the Members of the said late Monthly Meeting: ~~or a part thereof in its behalf shall not appeal to the Yearly Meeting: it is then our Opinion that the Quarterly Meeting shall join the Members of the said late monthly Meeting,~~ to such other Monthly Meetings as they may think most convenient and untill such time shall take care that no inconvenience doth thereby ensue to the Members of such dissolved Meeting respecting any Branch of Discipline

any monthly Meeting appealing may appeal

And if any of the Monthly meetings to which the quarterly Meetings shall join the Whole or part of the late Monthly Meeting, to think themselves any wise grieved they shall be at Liberty to appeal from the Quarterly Meeting to the Yearly Meeting who shall hear & determine the Matter appealed by the Quarterly Meeting & their Judgment shall be deemed Just by Members.

To deal in due time with disorderly Walkers.

The dear Friends in the Love of Christ earnestly beseech & exhort you to watch diligently over the Flock of God and be kept in due time in the Spirit of Christian Love and Tenderness with all such as walk disorderly among you & to endeavour to reclaim them by brotherly admonition & Counsel and where after patient waiting you find that your Christian Labours of Love hath not its desired effect you neglect not to testify against and disown such persons thereby prevent the reproach and Dishonour which may be brought upon our holy Profession that those may and that the ends and designs of Friends in settling good Discipline among us may be answered the most of these last years we have brought great difficulties on some Meetings for we think it both unreasonable and dishonourable when persons apply to Monthly Meetings on account of Marriages to desire such speedily to get to some other Meeting that such request should be duly laid long before & the Intentions

&c

Meetings for Discipline

1703 See Preachers. page 238.

1710

1711 The proposition for the establishment of Women's
Meetings for Discipline that was lately brought into
Meetings serious consideration, think it our duty to recommend
to the several Counties the following minute of former Yearly Meetings relating thereto, desiring Friends
in each Monthly Meeting carefully to see the same
put in practice, vizt 1695, 1696 & 1707. (which see at
length in pages 177 & 155.)—

See Law page 126.
See Marriage page 139.
See Subscribing page 85.

1715

1715 And dear Friends, we find it our concern to
repeat the exhortation we gave last Year, that Friends
To encourage Women's Meetings in all places would encourage the Service of the Meetings of faithfull Women: and that the Quarterly Meetings would duly inspect into Women Business
as also the Monthly Meetings where they suppose
for lack of Wisdom to give proper advice to those of their
own Sex.

And that proceedings in relation to marriage
Marriages to be laid before them. be first before such Meetings of Women, and the Clearness of the (one part or) the persons concerned enquired into by them, which Method, we apprehend will prevent
much of the trouble Friends are subjected to by those
who slight the Discipline of Truth, contrary to the Edification and Comfort of the Body.

Sittings for Discipline

1745

And dear Friends, we desire, that your several Monthly Meetings where any School-Masters or Mistresses for Children may reside, may not be wanting to admonish them, as much as in them lies, to bring up the Children committed to their Care in plainness of Speech; Behaviour & Apparel agreeable to our Profession: & that such as have Boys or Girls under their Tuition may diligently call them together at accustom them to the solemn reading of the holy Scriptures in their Families: & incite them to the Observation of the Christian precepts therein contained, and that they themselves walk before them in Christian Meekness & Humility & of that plainness & Simplicity which they recommend.

School Masters & Mistresses

See Appeales, page 85.

1747 1747 See Discipline, page 88: 89.

See Marriage: page 140.

1748 1748 See Ministry: page 145.

1751 1751 See Inscription: page 91.

1783. Agreeable to the Yearly Meeting of Friends at Newport, Rhode Island &c. held

1783 Concerning Meetings for Discipline

in the 5th month following.

In regard to the manner of Men's & Women's Meetings being united in discipline and recently adopted last Year. We recommend the following practice. When any person requests the care of Friends, and when any person is taken under dealing in any Monthly Meeting, such Meeting, whether Men's or Women's, acquaint the other thereof in order for their Unity, their Sympathy, & help if they think it best; and when the Meeting to whom application is made, or by whom the Friend may be undertaken

Meetings for Discipline

is about to marry, notice of which the [illegible]
understand that both Meetings be acquainted
therewith and their consent not be duly mani-
fested before the accusation is entered: And
when the approbation of both Meetings
be obtained, the same be entered on their re-
spective Records, and it is expected that they
[illegible] be attended by one
Friendly Meetings to make their application to
each Meeting when it is not convenient for both
to attend at once; and that Affir-
mation & Denial be read and assented to in both
Meetings, before the same be signed.

Meeting for Sufferings

1774

This Meeting being Under a Weighty Concern for Friends who Are & may be Under Sufferings & Exercised from the Power of this World on Account of our Religious Testimony. Do appoint our Friends

A Committee Who are Desired to take Cognizance of all Grievances Arising Amongst us, Wherein Any Friend or Friends may be affected in their Person or Property, or in regard to our Christian Testimony aforesaid: And to advise Council And Assist as to Wisdom may Direct. And they are desired to Meet the 2d Monthly Meeting aforesaid 1st. — That Seven of said Committee Constitute a Meeting Who may Transact the Business thereof. — And that Any Aggrieved Friend or Friends may Apply to them either in a Collective or Separate Capacity, as the Circumstances of the Case may require: And that said Committee in a Meeting Capacity draw on the Treasurer of this Meeting for the Money that Shall be Necessary for the purposes Given: who is ordered to pay the Same. — And that this Committee view And Judge of Manuscripts proposed to be printed, And Correspond with the Meeting for Sufferings at Philadelphia or Else where.

Meetings for Worship.

No 22. Concerning Meetings for Worship.

1675

1675 Publick Meeting to be kept up as an Testimony for the Lord.

That as it hath been ever since the beginning, that an open Testimony for the Lord should be born in a publick Meeting for Truth & kept to in the power of God by our open-air Meetings ought to be kept up for ever & all ages both in Gods Worship & Service. And that by the faithfulness & constancy of those Friends who have been at a time not to be given up to Advice and Judgment, that all Friends gathered in the Name of Jesus keep up those publick Testimonies in their respective places & not decline forsake or remove their publick Meetings because of the sufferings as weakly, fearfull & foolish proposals have done because informers & the like Persecutors & such practices are not consistant with the Nobility of Truth & Worship not to be removed out of Christ by Christ.

1678

1678 Meetings to be kept up at any time & by all.

And by reason of the men of this age & stupid & unwatchfull & temptation, forsake ye not the assembling of yourselves together but by so much the more & Exhorted one another & keeping all your Meetings for publick Worship & your Men & Women Meetings in the holy everlasting power, by which they were set up & as you are grounded & stedfast in the Truth of the Lord thy God & serve him wholly with a perfect heart & soul & plentifully remain with all your Brethren & your patience & perseverance with the meekness keeping peace & joy of that Spirit in which we & you the World began, which never shall have end.

Meetings for Worship.

1689

1689 All persons be watchfull against all Evil by Speak getting up or any for that will Speak the Spirit or any part of Worshipping or Reading Singing or any part of Worship & bring a decay of your Strength and Zeal for God and his Truth, and bring a weakness upon you by which that will not be able to stand in the hour of Temptation.

1695

1695 It is Ordered by this for the Ease of the Friends of this Province & Territories that Friends be diligent in keeping their Week Day Meetings as duly as on first Days in this Province & Territories.

1696

1696 Agreed that Friends be reminded that they desist from meeting to keep Meetings in their Houses and upon Fast & Thanksgiving Days, that Families may come to be seasoned in their Spirits by the Truth and the Lord's power, and that they may have his Blessing upon their Families.

1697

1697 Advised, duly to keep up week day Meetings.

1700

1700 See Meetings for Disciplines, page 150, 151.

1715

1715 Advised that all Friends be carefull to attend for Worship & Business at the Houses & Places appointed as near as they possibly may, and to detain Meetings out of Season.

1716

1716 Advised that all Friends be carefull to avoid any words or Signs of Division among Ministers or others that being of a very pernicious consequence to bring blame or contempt upon the Ministry & great hurt to our youth & others.

one another

1716

Meetings for Worship

1718

1718 Advised that all Friends be exemplary in seasonable and constant keeping to their Day Meetings as well as first Days in such as have Children & Servants bringing them as much as may be with them that they may be good examples to the Flock Hereby not to their Slothfulness & negligence be a stumbling Block to any of others.

1723

1723 Advised, that Friends keep their Children to as constant seasonable and orderly frequenting as well Week Days as first Days Meetings instructing them to have their minds stayed in the Divine gift & wait upon the Lord therein to receive a portion with them of his spiritual Favours, that they from the tenderness of the holy Spirit may be engaged in heart & mind to walk worthy of so great Favour as to be zealous to honour God & submit to bear the Cross, endeavour the Shame and become faithful Witnesses for him amongst the Sons of Men.

See preachers page 233.

1724

1724 Advised that Friends, the Meetings are sometimes held in silence, would not neglect their coming at those Meetings for the bringing their Souls to Christ for Bread and the thirsty for Water of Life and the Gospel have not yet in that respect that is of an enduring substance.

1725

1725 In your religious Meetings for the Worship of God both the first Days & other Days, the Lord help you in waiting on him in his Spirit whereby you may renew your strength and witness him your sufficiency for sure many of us have cause thankfully to remember his Goodness to the Assemblies of his people where he broke in upon our Hearts with his powerful [illegible] to the relief of us have a precious Fellowship, comfort & Counsel whereby we have in the renewings thereof been upheld in a faithfull Testimony, and in the Love of [illegible] to him.

Meetings for Worship.

1729

1729 We again recommend the Advice given in the Year 1723.

1732

1732 Advised that all Friends who are Masters & Heads of Families be very carefull in attending & bringing their Children & Servants to Meetings, both on first Days & other Days of the Week.

1733

1733 And as the first Day of the Week is set apart for the publick worship of almighty God, it is our earnest Advice, that Friends exhort & encourage their Children & Families to be diligent in the attending Meetings for Worship and to behave themselves there with reverence & gravity as becomes the profession of Christianity, & be regardfull of the good example in themselves of those whose Business may be to preside in the Worship of Almighty God, and that Friends be carefull to bring their Children to diligently attend every Meeting not only on the first Days, but as much as in them lies on other Days of the Week also in which respect we cannot but with grief observe too many of our remisses.

1734

1734 And that it may be more effectually recommended unto you to excite and stir up your Children to be diligent attenders of the First Day and Week Day Meetings and to employ your selves therein, and not only to attend customary allowances but in a serious & diligent manner to wait upon the Lord for we are informed the Lord to complain of this People in days of old, that they draw nigh to him with their Mouths and with their Lips did honour him, but had removed their Hearts far from him, & their Fear was taught by the Precept of Men. So we have reason to fear that the same formality has been a cause of that great decay upon Friends in the Practice of the Spiritual Worship of God in many of the Professors of Christianity.

Meetings for Worship.

1734 • And inasmuch as it hath pleased the Lord to raise
some amongst us as instruments in his hand to travel
to & fro for the preaching & spreading of the Gospel we
Advise that where Meetings for Worship are settled, when
any such are concerned to visit you, you would give
notice thereof to your neighbours & all Inclined, Neighbours
that they may have an opportunity to hear the Testimo-
ny of Truth to which the Lord hath
been often pleased to make use of for the gathering
many out of the Dark into his Marvellous Light through the pow-
er of the Word of Life faithfully preached.

1735

1736 • It hath pleased the Lord in his great Mer-
cy in our parts to favour the Faithfull in
some not only in such publick Assemblies as
this but also in their small private Meetings in the
Country many where with the lifting up of the Light
of his Countenance upon them by which they are
greatly encouraged to meet often together to Think
upon his Name & as he shall move any thereunto
to speak as unto Counsel to their mutual help
when & Comfort as like Opportunity to renew
our former Advices, That Friends in their several
Counties & places be diligent in attending reli-
gious Meetings for the Worship of God not only on
the first Days but on other Days of the Week and as
near as may be at the time appointed there being by
Accounts brought into this Meeting from several
places a great neglect in this respect which we
have reason to believe is owing to Lukewarmness
with the Cares of this Life the deceitfulness of Riches
& the Lusts of other things which choke the Seed
& so the love to Religion & the Worship of God de-
cays and grows cold.

Be diligent in attending Meetings

1736

1736 • See Meetings for Discipline page 509.

1738

1738 See Preachers page 237.

Meetings for Worship

1739 1739

The Advice in 1738 again recommended
See the printed Epistle.

1770

The following was agreed and Concluded on by the
Yearly Meeting of Rhode Island viz!

That where it shall appear upon due Inspection made
that any member shall or do neglect or omit the due attendance
of their meetings through Sloth Indolence Love of the world or
lukewarmness in Religion; that each monthly meeting take
care that all such be timely visited in love, and acquainted
with the mind and Desire of Friends in that case Recommended
to faithfulness therein: And if notwithstanding the
due Christian Labour and Admonition, he or they shall
continue in the said neglect or omission; If a minister his or
her Publick Testimony be denied. And if an Elder he or she
be dismissed from that station.

Meetings for Worship

Morning Meeting of Ministers.

No 23. Concerning the Morning Meeting of Ministers.

1695

1695 See Sufferings, page 305.

1697

1697 See Yearly Meetings, page 359.

1706

1706 See Books page 25.

1707

1707 See Yearly Meeting page 160.

1723

1723 It is the unanimous Agreement of this Meeting that it does not belong to the Morning-Meeting or any other Meeting of Ministers to disown any Ministers or other persons but that the sole right of so doing belongs to the Monthly Quarterly half Yearly or Yearly Meetings.

No meeting of Ministers to disown any.

And that no persons name from & after the eighth Day of the seventh Month next to be entered in the Morning Meeting Book of Ministering Friends as a Minister till he or she produces a Certificate from the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which he or she shall belong.

1731

1731 A Proposition from the Friends of Lisburn relating to the allowing a Gift to Travelling young Ministers &c being read, this Meeting leaves it to Monthly Meetings to appoint serious concerned and judicious Friends, who are not Ministers to encourage and help young Ministers in the Service as they in the Wisdom of God see requisite where there are Meetings of Ministering Friends such Friends to be Nominated as Members of such Meetings of Ministers, and act therein for the good purposes aforesaid.

1732

See Books page 24.

Morning Meeting of Ministers

1735

1735 It is the unanimous Sense & Opinion that the Morning Meeting of London or any other Meeting of Ministers have a right as they see meet in Wisdom & Truth to Direct, admit & rebuke any of their Members or any Ministers who may travel in the Work of the Ministry as occasion may require without being accountable for the same to any Monthly or Quarterly Meeting.

Meetings of Ministers may advise & rebuke &c.

But if any Member of the said Meetings or any other Minister should at any time be overtaken with a fault and the same be under the Cognizance of the Morning or other Meeting of Ministers, & the Monthly Meeting to which such person belongs shall also deal with him or her for the same, that then on notice from such Monthly Meeting that they have taken the Case under their Care & serious Consideration, all proceedings of the Morning or other Meetings of Ministers against such Minister or Elder shall be finally stopt.

And we are of opinion that the Morning Meeting or other Meeting of Ministers have no power to admit any Member or other person in any capacity whatsoever to act in the affairs belonging to monthly, Quarterly, Half-yearly or Yearly Meetings.

And it is our sense and opinion, that such discreet and judicious Friends, who are deputed Elders by the respective monthly Meetings of London to be allowed Members of the Morning-Meeting, to Only to encourage and help young Ministers and also Others as they shall see meet in the Wisdom of Truth for the good purposes specified in the Minute of this Yearly Meeting 1727.

Signed

Morning Meeting of Ministers.

1755 Second Day's Morning-Meeting preceeding the Yearly Meeting.

See Yearly-Meeting, page 61.

1770

Agreed and concluded on by the Yearly meeting held at Newport on Rhode Island. That there be held at each general meeting; a Select meeting, both at the beginning & end of such meeting and a Committee appointed to have the oversight of such meetings & make report to the Select meeting then in being; And also to the Yearly meeting of Ministers & Elders annually at Newport.

1770 See Minutes of Meetings of Select meeting at the beginning & end of general Meetings.

See Discipline page 93 & 4.

1781

when to begin The Select Yearly Meeting proposing to that Meeting that the said Select Meeting may begin in the future on fourth day at the 10th hour in the We the Yearly Meeting is to be held. — Accordingly it is approved of & Directed to be held at that time.

1783

Members of Select Meetings to attend Yearly Meetings

1783 Notwithstanding our Discipline, by a Minute made in the year 1760 directed that Ministers and Elders each Monthly Meeting, meet once in three months, to wit, the last Sixth day in the 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th months, & some Monthly Meetings, it is our judgment that it may be more useful in some particular circumstances, that the Select Ministers & Monthly Meetings unite in holding a Select Meeting; And that the Quarterly Meetings in succeeding years have liberty to direct in the proceedings thereof as they see occasion.

Mourning.

An Act Concerning Mourning.

1717

1717 According to the primitive Innocency & Simplicity of Christianity is the Advice of this Meeting that no Friends imitate the World in any distinction of Habit or otherwise as marks or tokens of Mourning for the Dead.

1718

1718 Advice against Men and Women imitating the World in making a Show of Mourning for the Dead in their Apparel.

Ordered to be printed 1724

1724 A Caution against imitating the vain Custom of Wearing or giving Mourning & all extravagant Expences about the Interment of the Deceased.

1760

1760 And whereas a Custom hath of late prevailed with some among us of wearing Mourning at the Funerals of their Relations contrary to the ancient practice & repeated advice of Friends, this Meeting desires that Friends every where would discourage such a Custom: and that Publick Friends at whose Meetings it may be desired at Funerals or elsewhere, do signify to the persons concerned the unexpressible difficulty they are put under by reason of such Appearances which by their presence they may be supposed to countenance.

Negroes.

Minute Concerning Importing Negroes

1727

1727 It was the Sense of this Meeting, that the importation of Negroes from their native Country into Barbadoes by Friends is not a commendable nor allowable practice; and that Practice is censured by this Meeting.

1760

1760 At the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on Rhode-Island it was agreed and directed that the following paragraphs from the Yearly Meeting of the year 1758 should be here inserted.

We fervently warn all in profession with us that they be careful to avoid being any way concerned in supporting the wicked practice arising from that iniquitous practice of dealing in Negroes and other Slaves whereby as the Scripture testifies men have sold themselves to work wickedness and are become the servants of sin. We earnestly desire that all may be careful to do as they would be done by, and to do good unto all, being zealous of the Good Gifts of God to mankind, and endeavouring to keep pure, upright and tender hearts preserving their sanguine Bowels in order to supply the loss of this most unnatural Traffick whereby great numbers of mankind so by Nature are subjected to inextricable Bondage and which hath often been observed to fill their possessors with haughtiness & Impurity Luxury & Barbarity corrupting the Minds & debasing the Morals of their Children to the unspeakable prejudice of Religion & [illegible] & exclusion of that holy Spirit of universal [illegible] & Charity which is the unchangeable nature and the glory of true Christianity. We therefore are in no less than with the greatest earnestness [illegible] upon Friends every where, that they endeavour to keep their Testimony clear of this unrighteous Gain of Oppressions.

Negroes.

1773

The following was agreed & Concluded on by the Yearly meeting of Rhode Island, viz:

It is our sense & judgment that Truth not only requires that the young of Capacity & Ability, But likewise the Aged & Impotent; And also all in a State of Infancy and non age among friends be Discharged & set free from a State of Slavery; that we do no more claim property in the humane race as we do in the brutes that Perish. —

Notwithstanding it is to be understood, that the aged and impotent and also Infants and those in their non Age be provided for brought up & Instructed as required by our tenth Query.

1769

per 1767

It is recommended that Friends who have Slaves in possession to treat them with Tenderness, impress God's fear in their Minds, promote their Attending the Religious Worship; And give those that are yet capable much learning that they may be capable of Reading. &c

Persecution.

No 29. Concerning Persecution

1665

1665 It is our desire and judgment, that all Friends gathered in the Name of Jesus, keep up their publick Testimonies of meeting together in their respective places, and not declare privately or remove their publick Assemblies because of Sufferings as strictly for all & publick Professors have done because of Informers, and the like Persecutors; for such like practices are not consistant with the Nobility of the Truth, & therefore not to be owned in the Church of Christ. See Meetings for Worship p. 171

not to declare publick assemblies for fear of persecution

1678

1678 See Meetings for Worship p. 171.

1703

1703 See Sufferings p. 308.

1715

1715 We desire that all with much circumspection and humility before the Lord, consider the great love of our present rulers, Liberty of the Imperial Heroes that have for some years attended the same, that our Love and desires for the Life and his Holy Truth & Church may have the preference of our Worldly Interest or Love thereto, lest we should incur the Lords Displeasure for an ungrateful & sordid Spirit of our Duty & thankfulness to Him: for it has been sometimes the Lords Method to deprive his people of the Liberties they abuse though he is a God slow to anger, and of long Suffering towards his Children.

to live in a grateful sense of the present Liberty.

Plainness.

No. 30. Concerning Plainness in Habit & Speech &c.

1675

1675 See Conversation, page 53.

1688

1688 See Conversation, page 53.

1695

1695 It is Advised that Friends take care to keep to Truth & Plainness in Language Habit Deportment & Behaviour that the Simplicity of Truth in these things may not wear out nor be lost & that Friends not in any Superfluities to avoid Pride & Immodesty in Apparel and Extravagant Wigs, and all other vain & superfluous Fashions of the World.

in Language Habit and Behaviour

1695

1695 It is the Advice of this Meeting that Friends & others keep to Plainness both in Speech, Habit and Furniture, and not to launch too far into the things of this World, by over hanging themselves with Business & Debts beyond their Abilities to discharge, but keep out of the Spirit of this World in all things, that more may be ensured to Truth thereby.

Meeting

1700 & 1701

1700 & 1701 It is Advised that a godly Care be taken for the due Education of Friends Children in nurture and admonition of the Lord and in plain & modest Apparel, and in Truths Language: and that all Parents be good Examples to them accordingly

Education of Children

1703

1703 This Meeting being under a deep sense that divers of the vain Customs and Fashions of the World prevail over some of our profession particularly in wearing Apparel and Furniture; doth earnestly recommend that all who make profession of the Truth take care to be exemplary in what they wear, and what they use to adorn their Persons of the Wife & Children & Servants & Others in their Habits & Houses & in their Speech &c. in all things becoming the profession in the Meekness & Sincerity

Apparel & Furniture

1708

Plainness

1708

1708 Parents to be Exemplary

Advised, that Parents be exemplary to their Children in keeping out of the vain Fashions, Customs & Pride of the World, by adorning themselves modestly and in plainness, according to the Simplicity & Truth received by us in the beginning.

1709

1709 to restrain Children

Let all be Examples to their Children in Wisdom, Moderation, plainness in Language and Habit: and not Examples only, but also to restrain them from any thing that might be to their hurt either inwardly or outwardly, neither providing for them costly and gaudy Attire, encouraging Gallantry or letting them have money to gratify themselves therein.

Let the Aged remember, & the Youth know that when apparant Signes of the Plague of Leprosie appeared on the Walls in the Houses of Israel, was the care of the priests under the Law to have the Houses cleansed and the Lepers also: and surely Christs priesthood should not fall short of their Care, to endeavour to stop and remove the manifest Scenes of the Leprosie of the great sin of Pride, and all superfluity of Naughtiness: & therefore let all concerned be carefully stirred up to sincere Obedience to the Light of Christ our great High Priest, that he may cleanse the Hearts & Houses of that growing plague, which tends to the ruin of Families & posterities.

1712

Plainness

1712

1712 Advised, that none despise the Day of Small Things nor turn aside from the plainness & simplicity of the Truth into the Bonds Wiles Customs and Fashions of the World which are vain and will perish with the using God having called his people out of the same through his righteous Judgments in their inward parts knowing that whatsoever hath been condemned and overturned there is no need to be built up again by any that are Lovers of the Truth as it is in Jesus.

1715

1715 Advised, that all Friends but more especially those be carefull that their Adorning be that of a meek and quiet Spirit which is in the sight of God of great price even as the holy men & Women of old professing God of whom it is Recorded in Holy Writ that the young Women as well as Men and Women would follow their Examples & be in great Subjection & be clothed with shamefastness & sobriety with the ornaments & Habits they ought to Wear and put on long streamers & gay Wigs which they that are not a profession with us see as a mark of Declension from our primitive plainness.

to follow the Examples of holy Antient

Young

Extravagant Wigs

And likewise that our young Women would carefully shun that unseemly & immodest appearance of their hair Shaving and wearing them Gross cutting to the Fashion-Mongers of the World.

Certainly both Males and Females who take such unseemly liberties for the Cross of Christ & Way of Life will hereby suffer great loss.

danger of flying the Cross

But in the Bowels of Christian Compassion we warn and exhort all such to come into that meekness that the Yoke of Christ may be their delight and their Souls may reap the comfortable Fruit of bearing the Same.

And

Staines

1715

Caution against false Liberty

And Caution given against false Liberty as sinful Life in the Flesh which is too apt to grow among some professing the same Truth with us, in a way for want of due watchfull use in Men to the Light of Christ and keeping low and humble before the Lord by reason whereof many Evils get in amongst us as in Apparel making many mix Marriages with persons of Contrary Judgment Buying and giving flattering Titles to Men saying you or you to a single person in calling the Days of the Week and the Months by heathenish Names to the declining of Truth & Testimony and giving occasion of stumbling to such as are seeking after the knowledge of the same as it is in Jesus.

1718

Testimony against Liberty

A Testimony against an undue Liberty which by many under the profession of Truth run into, to the great hurt & offence of many by reason whereof the way of Truth is evil spoken of and our holy profession greatly reproached by many Men amongst us putting on extravagant Wigs and Wearing their Hats & Cloaths after the vain Fashions unbecoming the gravity & religious profession and by many Women laboring themselves with finery in costly Apparel, Gold Chains, Jewels, Velvet &c and Gold Watches expose to open view which shows more of pride & Ostentation than for Use & service, besides their vain imitation of that unmeet Fashion of going with naked Necks & Breasts and wearing hoops petticoats inconsistant with that modesty which should adorn their Sex and do adorn the holy Women of Old.

And in like vanity of mind there is amongst us run into great Extravagance in the Furniture of their Houses both within & without with as great Declension in some of both Sexes from that plainness &

1718 of Speech so constantly use in holy Scripture & recommended and practiced by our ancient Brethren as well as by the faithfull in this Day.

Now this Meeting having been under a deep sense of the Love of Christ doth earnestly recommend the laying aside of these things before mentioned and whatever else is a hurt to themselves and brings a reproach upon us for certainly it does not become the gravity of our profession in any wise to run into every new and fantastick mode or fashion, but to keep to that which is plain, decent, grave & usefull and therefore in every where we desire to bear testimony against these and all other things that tend to lay Christ under a just Testimony.

Sept. about Children not to Apparel

And that parents in the tender years of their Children would not accustom them with gay & superfluous which practice cannot come from the Spirit that is Ancient of the ancient Customs of the World but must proceed from pride in the Parents and Children being led into such Vanities and Fancies as generally to be in Love with them, which is apt to increase with their years to that degree untill it may be found very difficult to reclaim them.

1732

1732 As it is evident that the Simplicity & distinguishing plainness of our holy profession is too much lost amongst us respecting Language, Apparel and Behaviour, we therefore earnestly exhort all to keep under the power of the Cross of Christ which will crucify to the World and the Vanities of it and bring up in us the life of self denial, agreeable to the Gospel and Example of our Elders.

1735

1735 We forasmuch as a true Christian practice and a Branch of it, is a real effect of the inward Sanctification of the heart by the Spirit of Christ for which we are frequently to exhort ourselves

all

Plainness.

1736 all humility and holiness of mind we tenderly advise that every thing tending to obstruct or divert the minds either of Children or those of more advanced years from this good exercise may be carefully avoided and taken out of the way, earnestly desiring that the Glory & Purity of the Truth and the progress of its Testimonies for the Salvation & Preservation of Souls may be the first place to your Examples to their Children & Families in an Humble and circumspect walking, and with all Plainness of Habit and Speech which is agreeable to the Truth the Examples of our ancient Friends & the present Testimonies of this Meeting, who should also that they be very careful not to indulge their Children in the Use and Practice of things contrary thereto; for we are sensible that by such habits of how little Moment soever some may think them, the tender minds of Children while very young being tainted and drawn aside from the simplicity of Truth a Foundation is early laid for those wide Liberties so justly complained of, for a Love and delight in such things imperceptibly imbibed at first, grows up with them and becomes strength more & more into confirmed Habits and thus come have become Enemies to the Cross of Christ, and forsaken & stepped the way of Truth, which possibly might have been prevented by friends doing their Duty in being good Examples and not shewing Respect unduly and folly in their Children but on the contrary prudently discouraging every appearance of Evil in them which necessary Duty we earnestly recommend to their serious Consideration & practice.

1736

1734 See Conversation, page 56.

1735

1737 See Families, page 106.

1737

Plainness.

1739.

1731 It is also our concern to exhort all Friends both Men and Women to watch against the growing Sin of Pride and to beware of adorning themselves in a manner disagreable to the plainness & simplicity of the truth we make profession of. Oh that they would duly consider that since it was for what the Lord by the Mouth of his Prophet pronounced against the haughty daughters of Sion! That he discerns even the particular evidences of their Professions in Ornaments contrary to the Truth, and removing down his Judgments upon them: If these things in that time were offensive in the Eyes of the Lord how much more are they so now in a people professing the plainness & Simplicity which the Gospel of Christ recommends.

I will, saith the Apostle Paul, that Women adorn themselves in modest apparel with shamefastness & sobriety not with broidered hair or pearls or Gold or costly array but which becometh Women professing Godliness with good Works. 1 Tim. 2. 9. When he plainly sheweth that such adornings are contrary to the profession of Godliness.

The Apostle Peter also is very full in his Exhortations on this Subject whose admonition would it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the Hair and wearing of Gold and putting on of apparel but let it be the hidden man of the Heart in that which is not corruptible, even the Ornament of a meek & quiet Spirit which is in the sight of God of great price: for after this manner in the old time the holy Women also who Trusted in God adorned themselves 1 Pet. 3. 5. plainly intimating that these in so far were holy and trusted in God, placed their Delight not in such Ornaments. Oh! that we were more concerned to consider these things: let your moderation be known unto all men and grieve not the holy Spirit of God but be followers of them as dear Children walking circumspectly not as Fools but as Wise redeeming the time because the Days are evil.

Plainness.

1783

1783 And Whereas we have with deep Concern observed by Accounts from divers places, that there is great declension from that simplicity in Speech Habit & apparel which are worthy Attended unto and as we find by experience that the same Spirit of Truth which led our Ancients to lay aside every thing unbecoming the followers of Christ will still lead us in the same path all who submit to its Guidance we earnestly entreat Friends every where to watch over themselves in these respects and that Parents & Masters of Families would labour to engage those under their Care to attend to the qualifying & preparing their tender minds with an Christian Life, and the Plainness & purity of the Gospel the example of our blessed Saviour & his followers and of virtuous & holy Men in all Ages, ought to make a due impression on every considerate Mind and especially on such as have had the advantage of an Education in a plainness agreeable to such Example.

Let not any such as degenerate in these respects excuse their own Weakness under a presence of the miscarriage of some who have appeared outwardly plain Ones Opinion of very little weight to be they rightly considered they would clearly find the very reason why Persons sometimes put on plain Apparel is because true Men have been accustomed to wear it.

We also tenderly advise that Friends, especially those who should be Exemplary to others in their Conversation take heed that they Exercise plainness of speech without respect of persons in all their Conversation Men and not bend to Flattery by a cowardly Compliance in using their Language according to their Company

The practice of many ill designing Youth
in rendering those who use it contemptible & looked
upon as a kind of Hypocrites even by those with
whom they associate. such a Man ought
practice ought to be cautioned against by the
Ministers to advise him to be
be grave, not double Tongued: a Caution plainly
importing that double tongudness is inconsistant
with the gravity of the Gospel.

Orders Concerning the Poor.

1693

1693 Advised that if any Parishioners for the future shall endeavour to remove Strangers & Families to this City that before they remove Strangers they apply to the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings to which they belong for advice & Counsel and that such Meetings do rather advise them to be content at their Settlements & places where provisions are Cheapest unless they may be made as easy in the places aforesaid where at present they are permitted by Certificate to remove that then the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings from whence they come to take care to supply their Strangers that the Parishioners be not over charged for the future.

1694

1694 Advised that care be taken that poor Indian Children may partake of Education & be put to apprenticeships.

1696

1696 Advised that such among Friends as are known with plenty of outward substance be timely & tenderly treated to do good towards the Poor in their Day & Generation especially with regard to the poor that the Widows of their Charity may commend their memorials and be good precedents to Generations to come.

That the Rich remember the poor and do good in their life time and if they make any Settlement for the use of the poor to take advice & Counsel that it may be done ~~so that Friends may not be worse~~ so that Friends may not be deprived of their Charity or may be free according to Law.

1698

As to the endeavouring to procure an Act or Acts for [illegible] relief of the poor amongst us & [illegible] Workhouse &c. to refer to the

Meeting

1698 Meeting for Sufferings to proceed as the respective Counties shall give directions to them and shall send up Friends to assist in soliciting for the said Act or Acts from each County if they see meet

1709

This Meeting that no poor Friends Children may want necessary Learning.

1709 Advised and desired that the Friends sent duly in the Fear of God to the Quarterly Meetings assist them. That the Children of poor may have their due help of Education, Instruction & necessary Learning, and that Children both of the rich and poor may be early provided with industrious employments, that they may not grow up in Idleness & Vice; but that being thus seasoned with the Truth Sanctified of God, taught the holy discipline of the Church may appear to reputation to our holy profession the Comfort of their Parents & profitable Instruments unto the Glory of God, and the good of the Generation coming on.

1710

1710 Agreed that if any poor Friends or Friends for the time to come should incline to remove themselves & families from the Limits & Compass of one Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to another that before they remove themselves, they apply themselves to such Meetings to which they belong for Advice & Counsel therein & which of the said Meeting to which they apply do approve that they then give a Certificate signifying such Meetings Consent to their removal & Settlement & any Friend or Friends having such Certificate as aforesaid shall bring their Certificate to the Meeting shall bring their Certificate to any Meeting they shall be directed into the Meeting shall receive such Collection for the Poor of the said Friend or Friends into any Meeting of the

Church

1710

1710 Church in the Compass of the Meeting they remove into, such receiving their Collection or imployment may well be done & Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting, and altho such Friend or Friends may not be Capable to contribute to the Collection of the Poor or the Services of the Monthly Meeting yet such Friend or Friends behaving him or themselves according to Truth, & not any ways chargeable to the said Meeting for the space of three years after the delivery of his or their Certificate, they may also then be well deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three years inhabit.

3. Servants Men & Maids bringing a Certificate as aforesaid being here for one Year & serving the same Just fully & honestly that then after such Year & so they also may be well deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they were & if they do not to the Meeting within that time the Certificate they had.

4th If any professing Truth coming to settle & remove without a Certificate, & fall into want & apply to any Friend for assistance that then the Friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the said person shall say he or they do belong to acquaint that Meeting of such necessitous person & have such person assisted & kept in the Unity of Friends, and if such necessitous person have not been denied before they became thus chargeable that then the Meeting from whence they came & to which they did belong, shall reimburse the Charge they have been or may be at on their account.

This Agreement to continue but for four Years unless it be then renewed.

1711

1711 An Explanation of the fourth Article in the last foregoing Agreement relating to the Settlement of the Poor, as followeth viz.

If

Poor.

1711 In Explanation to the Act made in 1710.

If any poor Friend or Friends shall unavoidably remove from their habitations without a Certificate, in case the next Meeting to which they come for assistance that then the Friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the distressed shall say he or they did belong, to acquaint that Meeting of such as necessitous person; and know how such person or persons did stand in the unity of Friends where they removed from, if such in question person have not been denied, or were owned, before they became their Charge: that then the Meeting from whence they came, and to which they did belong do reimburse half the Charges which have been expended upon the account of the necessities for any time not exceeding three Months in which time the Meeting from whence they came shall have the necessities of the poor to relieve as they are directed to do with all reasonable expedition as soon as both Meetings shall think fit the Friend where they are to be to whom application shall be made for relief, after which neither Meeting is obliged to continue their Care & Charge in that they respect.

But if they be such as are not Friends, or are Disorderly persons intending to settle where they came, nor Friends to whom they do come, are to be under any Obligation to maintain such necessitous person, yet not to restrain the Charity of any particular Friend or Friends from affording present relief to any necessitous person.

1710

1711 This Agreement of the Yearly Meeting 1710 for a settlement of poor, with the amendment of the fourth Article the next Year 1711 is to be continued.

1718

1718 The Advice of this meeting to Friends in reference to the poor among us, is, that it ought to be considered that the Poor belong to Friends & Children of our Society, and ought not to be turned off to any thing to either imployed or educated, and tho' some may be the poor & burthen, yet remember when we see a Spirit in them for and walk orderly, they are an Ornament to our Society & the Rich should consider it is more blessed to give than to receive, and he who gives to the poor lends to the Lord, who will repay again.

The poor to be considered as belonging to Friends

1720

1720 As Mercy, Compassion & Charity are eminently required in this new Covenant Dispensation we are under: so care of the Poor and Indigent among us to see there be no Beggar in our Israel, is the Concurrent advice of this Meeting that all poor Friends once a Month be taken due care of, and more often if necessity requires it to be relieved that nothing be wanting for their necessary supply: which has been very well attended with good success & Testimony, and it has long been our report, that we have not only maintained our own poor, but also contributed our share to the poor of the respective parishes wherein we dwell.

No Beggar to be among us

See Questions, page 288.

none to be sent to the Workhouse

1723

1723 A Question being proposed about the Settlement of Friends before that made in 1710.

This Meeting concludes, that all were not considered as to be esteemed Members of the several Monthly Meetings in which Compass they then resided & it is the sense of this Meeting that it was not intended by the Minute of 1710 to affect the Settlement of Friends before that time.

1724

1724 An explanation of the Settlement of the poor agreed to at the Yearly Meeting in 1724, but not to break or interfere with any particular agreement of the Monthly Meetings of London among themselves as follows, viz.

To have a Certificate

That if any Friend or Friends for the future should incline to remove him her or themselves & families from the Limits & compass of one Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to another, that he or they remove, they request a Certificate for such their Removal.

What may be deemed a Settlement

When any Friend or Friends having a Certificate of his her or their good behaviour as above shall bring such Certificate to any Meeting to which it may be directed, and the Meeting accept or receive their Collection or put the said Friend or Friends into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they remove into such receiving their Collection or Employment shall or may well be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting: and altho such Friend or Friends may not be of ability to contribute to the collection for the poor or the Services of the Monthly Meeting, yet such Friend or Friends behaving him her or themselves according to the Truth, and no way chargable to the said Meeting for the space of three Years, may then well be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which they shall so three Years inhabite.

Servants

Servant Men and Women, bringing a Certificate as aforesaid, being hired one Year & serving the same faithfully the such Years Service shall and may well be deemed to belong to such Monthly Meeting within the Compass wherein they so lived.

1724.

1724 Notwithstanding the second Minute of Settlements on relation to the poor there hath risen some Disputes among Friends concerning the Same, we think it necessary to add, that if any Friend or Friends do for the future remove from one Monthly Meeting to another, to settle there, that then the Monthly Meeting to which such are removed shall as soon as possible inquire of the Friend or Friends so removed for a Certificate, and for want thereof that then the Monthly Meeting where such Friend or Friends are so refiding shall write to the Monthly Meeting from whence they came to request a Certificate in behalf of such Friend or Friends, but if the Monthly Meeting where such are then residing do neglect to write to the Monthly meeting from whence they came for such a Certificate for the space of three Years after such residence among them that then it shall be deem'd a settlement to such Friend or Friends in such Monthly Meeting they have for three Years so resided unless such person or persons were in fault or debt before their removal.

We think the Minute in the Year 1711 may stand with the following alterations viz: That the Word poor in the first Line be left out, and that the word in stead of the half Charges be reimburst according to the Directions of the said Minute.

1729

1729 Rules & Directions relating to removals & Settlements among Friends agreed upon by the Yearly Meeting held in London in the third Month 1729

1st First if any Friend or Friends for the time to come should incline to remove him her or themselves & Families from the Limits & compass of one Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to another before they unsettle themselves they apply to such Meeting to which they belong for advice & Counsel therein,

2d

Vol.

Why of what of the two Meeting to which they apply they are. they give a Certificat signifying such Meetings consent to their removal.

Secondly when any Man or Woman having a Certificat of his or their good behaviour shall bring such Certificat to any Monthly Meeting to which it may be directed and the Meeting accept & receive their Collection & put the said Man or Women into any Service of the Church in the Compass of the Meeting they remove into such receiving their Collection or employment, shall or may be deemed a Settlement within the Compass of such Meeting and altho such Friend or Friends may not be of Ability to contribute to the Collection for the poor or the Charges of the monthly Meeting yet such Friend or Friends if they may have or Improve propertys proportionable to the Collections made in such Meeting for the space of three Years after the delivery of their Certificate or Advice thereof from the Meeting from whence he she or they came any thing herein to the contrary notwithstanding the Compass of which they shall so three years inhabit.

what may be deemed a Settlement.

Thirdly Servants Men & Women bringing a Certificat as aforesaid being like unto & constantly serving the same in one Family, after such Years Service, shall and may be deemed to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which their Masters or Mistresses shall be proper members.

Servants

Why

Fourthly that the two weekly & Quarterly Meeting giving a Certificat to any person or persons shall forthwith write to the Meeting to which the said Corporation is directed giving notice thereof, and if they omit writing the Person to whom such Certificat is granted shall not deliver his or her Certificat but the person removing shall still belong to the Meeting from whence he or she came, & if the Meeting give notice of the person's coming with a Certificat & the person continuing more than a year shall be deemed a member of the Meeting to which he or she is come.

Lastly

Visit.

1739 5th Fifthly, if any professing Truth shall contrary to former Advice remove without a Certificate and fall into want & apply to any Friend for Assistance that Month Friend to whom they apply may write to the Meeting to which the Distressed shall say he she or they do belong, & request that Meeting of such a necessitous person to know how such person or persons did stand in y Unity of Friends and if such necessitous person or persons have not been denied, but owned before they became thus Chargable, that then the Meeting from whence they came & to which they did belong shall reimburse the Charges they have been or may be at on their Account, and if the Meeting from whence such necessitous person or persons came shall refuse then to reimburse which they are then desired to do, all expedition to save Charge and ability of Body & Mind, in the Friends where they are so desired to assist them in such cases, but if such person refuse to return according to such advice, after the Space of three Months notice Meeting is Clear to withdraw their Care and Charge, yet this is not intended to restrain the Charity of any particular Friend if such person appear real object of necessitous person.

6th Sixthly, but if any Friend or Friends remove without a Certificate, it is desired that the Monthly Meeting from whence they came do make enquiry, & get information whereto they are removed, and write to such Quarterly, Monthly or two-Weeks Meeting, giving Account of their behaviour & Circumstances, & if such Friend so shall continue for the Space of three years after such account receive within the Compass of the Monthly Meeting whereto he she, or they, are removed, behaving during that time Orderly, & no way chargable nor become Insolvent, may then be become to belong to the Meeting within the Compass of which he shall three Year inhabit: provided they were not Insolvent before they removed.

Seventhly

1721:

1721 5th Monthly that no Meeting herein contained shall
intrude into any particular agreement among the
Monthly Meetings in London respecting their Poor.

" Eighthly that every Quarterly or Monthly
Meeting communicate this agreement to the particular Meetings in order to its being publickly read
at the close of Meetings for Worship within three
months after or oftener as they may see a Service in
it. that none may plead Ignorance.

We find ourselves at this time engaged to
request that Friends in every part of this Kingdom or where these our Epistles may come, in the
fear of the Lord carefully attend to the Duty
of Family Instruction & Worship that so an Example
may be set before the Rising Generation of the many Mercies wherewith the
Lord has entrusted us.

1783

1783 Whereas different Sentiments have been
in the Minds of divers Friends with respect to
the Minute of 1721. relating to Settlements: & Question was put, what is meant by the Word Residence? It was thereupon resolved in this Meeting
that the same shall be taken in the most extensive sense of the Word in unto respect to all Persons inhabiting in any place before the
Year 1710 not being then disowned by Friends.

1735

1735 See Questions, page 269.

1783

1783 See Removals & Settlements, page 263 & 265.

1785

Yearly

Yearly

Monthly Meetings support their own poor

It is the mind of this Meeting that all Monthly Meetings ought to take care of and sufficiently support all poor friends within the bounds of each Monthly Meeting according to our former Rule and if such Monthly Meeting be not able to support them that the Quarterly Meeting shall on Application made give them such relief as may be necessary.

No 32 Concerning Preachers.

1689

1689 A Concern coming upon Friends of this Island concerning several persons lately Arrived here, who go rambling idly up and down the Countries and preaching themselves out of the unity of Friends in their own County, whose Conversation and Examples are not savory as becomes the Truth: Friends in the several Counties should beware of such, and give no encouragement nor countenance to them, but warn them to return and settle in their places and first employment, and walk orderly with their own Meeting

Caution not to set up and down preaching who are out of Unity

1695

1695 This. Meeting desires and hopes that you whom the Lord hath gifted with a publick testimony of his Name and Truth will be mindful of the day of your Visitation to feel the leadings of God in your Meetings and first especially that Good prevail.

1695

1695 Where Friends in any County [illegible] Salisbury or Northern with any that take upon them to preach among them let them first be duly admonished in their own County with the assistance of [illegible] Ministers and Elders of the several [illegible] County or Upper County or County and if offenders will not submit to admonition or Counsel of Friends then to publish them where they so impose.

Preachers who are Guilty of Disorderly Walking to be dealt with by the Meeting to which they belong

If any such after due [illegible] travel abroad to minister out of [illegible] their own County, the Friends of the [illegible] where they travel should have [illegible] of them from Friends where they have had their [illegible] commendation.

1695

Vouchers

1699

1699 This Meeting recommends to the several Monthly and Quarterly Meetings in the several parts of these parts that they take care to send up such Testimonies that go forth with a publick Testimony may be sent that we will approve of time by their respective Monthly or Quarterly Meetings, & are to be sent to the Yearly Meeting & in Unity with their own Meetings.

the Travel of Ministry with their own Mo. Mg.s

to deal gravably with disorderly Meeting

And if any of the said Monthly Meetings be burthened with the Contrary, let them tenderly bear their Testimonies privately to the parties concerned, giving them Gospel Order & if they don't reform & are reckoned Let the Meeting to which they belong may be acquainted therewith that the next Quarterly Meeting is desired to send that in their Meeting to the several Monthly & Quarterly Meetings the Copy of the Minute made relating to this matter last year.

1702

Agreed that Friends in the several Counties shall be cautious not to receive any to Membership from other Meetings by Certificate or Testimonial from the Monthly Meeting to which they belong.

1716

This Meeting ordains Overseers concerning such Friends deceased, in the Accounts brought up it is desired that care be taken to make up to this Meeting the times of their decease & their Circumstances & Services in the Work of Truth

1716

Six Meetings for Worship [illegible]

1716

Vol. 2

1720

1720

Friends in the respective Quarterly Meetings are earnestly desired and advised, that they use prudence and Caution, so as not to be imposed upon by Impostors or Cheats, pretending to the Ministry or otherwise; and where there is doubt or Question of the Ministry of any person in such Case that such be required upon to show what Certificate they have, and in general it is left by recommendation to the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings to see that Friends in their Travel as in the Work of the Ministry, do go in the Unity of the Meetings to which they belong, and with Certificates therefrom.

1 Caution not to be imposed upon

Persons who travel to have Certificates

And further that it may become the less Care of the said several Meetings to watch over such as may be young in the Ministry to see that they walk humbly and wisely that as on the one hand nothing truly tending to the glory of God and the Edification of his Church and people may be discouraged, so on the other hand where any thing appears which may make a Advice necessary, that the Elders of the Church both Ministers and others do in the Wisdom of God, give their Advice thereupon with due regard to the State of Weakness & Childhood that such may be under.

Meetings to watch over young Ministers & Direct them

1723

1723

This Meeting taking under their serious Consideration the Beauty and Credit of keeping Decency and good Order in our Meetings for Worship & desire every where to avoid publick reflections on Ministers not discovered by the Monthly or Quarterly Meeting to which he or she shall belong, by keeping on of Record & making any other appearances or declarations of their Sense of any person pretending to be a Minister, that [illegible] of unexpected & disturbing them to the great Uneasiness of [illegible] Behaviour or Conversation of such person pretending to be dealt with privately in a Gospel Spirit [illegible] that Complaint is made of such person to the

1 To avoid publick reflections on Ministers not discovered See matter to Worship 1720 p. 7

[illegible]

Vouchers.

1723 the Monthly Meeting to which he or she shall belong, and that proceedings thereupon be accordingly had in the Affair settled with all possible speed & expedition.

1727

1727 See Morning Meeting of Ministers, p. 285.

1728

1728 We earnestly desire, that as tender and prudent Care be taken in Monthly & Quarterly Meetings proper and serviceable Advice & Caution as they see meet, and particularly against all indecent Postures and gestures, unintelligible Tones & Sounds, superstitious & misapplications of Scriptures which renders such a Ministry contemptable.

Caution against indecent postures & Tones &c.

That they do not grant Certificates to Ministers to travel abroad to visit the Churches unless they have full satisfaction of their Qualifications for so great a Work, and are of gravity Conversations, being well approved at home.

They may not grant Certificates

See Scriptures, p. 282

1730

1730 Visitors are desired to call on Strangers who come in the Meeting for Certificates, thereby prevent all places to prevent being imposed upon as per [illegible]

See Meetings for Discipline, p. 155.

1731

Vouchers.

1631

1631 An Epistle of Love to Ministry
Sooner that shall be

Dearly beloved Friends,

The Spirit of God by
the Inventer of all true Knowledge & Experi-
ence in Ministers & Teachers is very fully exhort that
all such they [illegible] to their
several & peculiar Gifts & Ministers the Word faith-
fully as it is manifested and revealed to them, observing
a decent and modest behaviour in the exercise of their
Ministry, and avoid intangling themselves with the
Affairs of this Life that they may be free to
[illegible] Heavens be watchfull over their own Spirits, and not for-
wardly Judge or Censure the Testimonies which may
[illegible] amongst them for if they be not very
diligent in attending upon the Lord in Meeting they
[illegible] on the Ministry.

Now this being a very [illegible]
great Moment for the preservation of Love & Concord
in the Churches we knowing the danger & evil
as which attend an hasty & confused [illegible]
Ministry we thought it very necessary to exhort the
Members of the Monthly & Quarterly Meetings
to that [illegible] but to
fear & Love in the hearts of [illegible]
free all in readiness and tenderness
for the due Observation of this we pray
help to Ministers in the discharge of their
Service to which they are called.

And we earnestly request that the Elders
in [illegible] may
inform the Flock when suitable opportunities present
that both Ministers and Teachers pursuing one & the same

(M)

Teachers.

1738 And namely the glory of God and the good and Welfare one of another the Church may be edified increase & flourish & the consolation of the Faithfull on the other hand we advise that Ministers have it very much at heart to maintain a perfect Harmony and good understanding with the Monthly Meetings to which they belong and that as the said Meetings may sometimes see Occasion to admonish them respecting their conduct in Meetings or otherwise, that they when Admonished may be ready to hear & receive Advice as well as Teach and Instruct.

Ministers to keep good harmony with their Mon: Meetings

And dear Friends we further tenderly advise the Monthly Meetings to take great care to whom they give Certificates when they travel & prevent the Inconveniencies which sometimes befall the Churches from a weak & unskillfull Ministry as also the Elders when they are required to be assisting: and that Ministers be very prudent in their conduct not an busy Bodies nor meddle with family & personal affairs in which they are not concerned

Certificates

& tender of one anothers Reputation, and that all Friends may shun & avoid neither giving ear to nor propagating Reports to the Hurt or Prejudice of any as a Lessening or Discredit of any of the Brotherhood, and as soon as their Travel in the Ministry is over that they return to their Habitations & there take a reasonable & prudent Care of their own respective Household & Family.

1736

1736 And as the Lord in Mercy is breathing afresh on several of our Youth of both sexes & fitting them for his Service, we recommend it to the Elders in every Meeting that they be duly watchful over all young Ministers and others that they in the Wisdom of Truth may be opened thereunto, nourishing that which is right in them & faith in the Seed of Life & discouraging every thing that is indecent & unbecoming the Ministry.

1737

1737 If any Friend who has been a publick Minister among you shall be guilty of such practices as justly deserve your publick Censure, we shall expect they be duly considered & discovered by you and after proper tokens of repentance may be given we shall admit them into membership with us & think good to advise you that such a person be not interested to give him or her the liberty of appearing as a publick Minister in all the Meetings belonging to such Meeting to which he or she belongs to shall judge it [illegible] given by such person after removed as such publick appearance may not Minister occasion of reproach either from Friends or others and we also advise that such persons be frequent in attending the Meeting to which they belong and advise them not to exercise their gifts in public but as they shall see suitable to their Circumstances.

a publick Friend censured or discovered the reinstated &c.

1738

1738 When we consider that it was the [illegible] which first gathered us to be a people & [illegible] ancients to bear a faithfull Testimony to him [illegible] cannot but intreat you to [illegible] renewed enjoyment of the power of Truth upon your hearts that thereby you may be encouraged to [illegible] respective [illegible] and in a Conscientious diffusing for the Christian Testimony you are concerned to bear.

Thus

Preachers.

1730 (in Christ) Lord just before his Ascension commanded his disciples & followers to wait at Jerusalem till they were endued with power from on high knowing their inability without the sensible feeling of that power, to speak in his name for the conversion of the nations. This power that enable them to speak boldly in the Name of Jesus: this alone made them able Ministers of Christ. their preaching was not with enticing Words of Mans-Wisdom; but in the demonstration of the Spirit & Power. & seeing many Friends have experienced much Spiritual consolation & Waiting in Silence & diligently depending upon the Lord alone we stand Engaged to be very carefull to observe the Motions of the Spirit for religious Worship, in that when together they labour to feel their Minds abstracted from visible Objects into a true stillness & nothingness of Self. knowing the Assistance of the holy Spirit to be witnessed by humble & contrite Souls. in such a waiting State you will have a true relish & sight of the ministry of those who are rightly concerned by the same Spirit to labour in Word & Doctrine among you.

1740

1740 Testimonies concerning publick Friends ordered to be recorded. See Records page 257

1743

1743 And that Friends in particular desire & encourage by advice as heretofore, See page 231 in 1727.
page 235 1735.
page 237 1736.

That the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings do not appoint any Elder Friends without the Limits of their Meeting to be assisting and assisting to the Friends may be concerned to Minister among us, and in [illegible] the respective Ministers in judgment or conviction as through [illegible]

Preachers.

1743 And that in writing up to this Meeting the
Names of publick Friends names of publick Friends deceased are to be taken
where no particular Testimony concerning them is
given that nevertheless the Age Place of abode time of
death and place thereof
as also how long they had been Ministers, be expressly
mentioned.

1745 & 1765

1745 Whereas it appears unto this Meeting that sev-
Disorderly persons who travel abroad preaching without Certificates to be sent for
eral persons who are not in Unity with their Monthly Meetings
where they dwell do travel up and down with out Certificate
or recommendation expressing their sense & desire
desire to the service & benefit of the Churches where they
come or to those, that all such travels as travel in the
Gift of the Ministry with the Unity & approbation of
their respective Meetings, will be strictly careful not
to countenance or join with any such Imposters but
rather to testify against such their disorderly practices
endeavours to perswade them to return to their callings &
Habitations: and Friends of the several Monthly or other
Meetings where such disorderly persons may come are
desired to enquire of them for their Certificates, by the want
of which they may be able to discover, that their travelling
abroad is not with the approbation of Friends
where they dwell and consequently are to be
Judges of their call to and Qualifications for the Work of the
Ministry to which they pretend.

And we do in much Love caution those
Friends who are rightly Concerned in the Work of the
Ministry, to watch over their own Spirits and not to be
over hasty, rash or censorious in passing judgment re-
specting the State of those who have them, but to wait
that in the Exercise of their Ministry they may be led by the
Love of God in that their Principle there that they
may be [illegible] that [illegible]
lation and Strength to the Churches where they come.

Preachers.

1773 And further we earnestly Exhort, that none would offer to impose themselves as preachers in any Meetings of Friends whom not themselves found faithfull against the payments of Tithes and in diverse of the other Branches of our ancient Christian Testimony

1772

The following was agreed & concluded on by the Yearly Meeting of Rhode Island — That when Publick Friends have it on their minds to Travil out of the Verge of the Quarterly Meeting they belong to, That they acquaint the Elders of their respective meetings, with their Concern; for their advice, before they move it to the Preparative meeting, in order for a Certificate from the monthly meeting, And also when they have it on their minds to travil out of the Verge of the Yearly meeting: That they proceed in like manner, and take a Certificate from the Quarterly meeting they belong to; Concuring with the Monthly meeting thereon —

2 And that Any person coming from one Monthly Meeting to Another in Order to Engage their Intentions of Marriage that they bring a Certificate with them to the first monthly Meeting from the Monthly Meeting where they belong, Signifying their Parents or Guardians Consent if they have Any, As well as their Conversation & Deportment with Other Persons. —

2111

Prisoners.

Notes Concerning Prisoners.

1676

1676 See Records page 253

1681

1681 Advised that an Account be yearly sent up of all such Friends as are in prison or prisoners that we may know the no. thereof prisoners who also are discharged since the yearly meeting before and when discharged also to signify the Time of their Commitment, by whom prosecuted and for what cause. And that distinct Accounts be brought up of all such Friends as have died in prison or prisoners for their testimony to the Truth since the yearly meeting with their Names, Ages, dwelling place, Time of their Imprisonment, and the places of their travel & service & Time of sufferings and death. ——

1682

1682 See Questions pag 247.
and Records page 254.

1696

1696 See Questions page 247.

1700

1700 See Records page 256.

Questions.

The Questions proposed at the Yearly Meeting for the Queries to appear from the respective Quarterly Meetings to give Answer to.

1742

1742. The Committee appointed to consider of Queries instead of the former Queries have drawn up the following which were for several times read duly considered & agreed to. & it is agreed by this Meeting that the several Counties send up their Answers to the said Queries to this Meeting, seperate from their Accounts of Sufferings which for the future are agreed to be taken in immediately after the Accounts of Sufferings are entered.

Queries new

New Queries

1st What present Sufferings?

2d How many Teams have gone out from you at this

3d How many due Sufferings?

4th How many Meeting Houses built? And what Meetings new settled?

5th How many publick Friends died & when?

6th What is the State of your Meetings? Is there any growth in the Truth? And do any Convincements appear since last Year? And is Love & Unity preserved amongst you?

7th Do you take care by Example & Precept to bring up your Children in the Love of God & Christ & diligent reading the holy Scriptures as also in the Fear & Spirit & Behaviour & Apparel

8th Do you bear a faithfull Testimony against the receiving or paying Tithes & also against bearing Arms? And do you admonish such as are unfaithfull therein?

See p. 249.

9th Do you stand clear in your Testimony against defrauding the King of his Customs & Excise & in dealing in Goods prohibited to be run?

10th How are the Poor among you provided for? and what Care is taken for the Education of their Offspring?

11th

The

Queſtions

9th 11th Do you keep a Record in your Monthly & Quarterly Meetings of the Proſecutions & Sufferings of your reſpective Members? And have you a Record of your Meeting Houſes & Burial Grounds?

1704.

South It is agreed by this Meeting that the eighth Query be altered & worded as followeth viz:

the 8th Query alter'd. Do you bear a faithfull & Chriſtian Teſtimony againſt the receiving or paying Tithes, preſentments, or Church Rates? Bearing Arms, and paying Trayſy Money? And do you admoniſh ſuch as are unfaithfull therein?

1760

9th Let the Yearly Meeting held in Newport on [illegible] the following Queries that be read at the former Queries from time to time, and be made use of among us.

1st Are all Meetings for Religious Worſhip & Diſcipline duly attended, the Hour obſerved, & are Friends preſent from Meeting to Meeting without Intermiſſion & therein ſeriouſly & reverently behave & behave themſelves?

2d Is Love and Unity maintained amongſt You as becomes Brethren & Profeſſors bearing, forbearing & forgiving one another, & are all Differences ſuch as may be diſcovered in their Infancy & before they grow to Heights ſpeedily uſed to end them?

3d Are Parents, Maſters & Miſtreſſes carefull to bring up their Children & Servants in the Truth of Speech, behaviour, and apparel, and in the Fear of the Lord, & reſtrain them from Vanity & Exceſs in Meat, Drink & Apparel, & from the Corrupt Converſation of the World?

11th

Questions

5th Are Friends carefull to avoid the frequent use of spirituous Liquors the unnecessary frequenting of Taverns and places of publick resort and in their Conversation walk as becomes the professors of the blessed Truth: in true Moderation & Temperance and the Account of Births, Marriages, Burials, and all other Occasions?

6th Are parents Tenderly affectionately inspected, they instructed or assisted in such Business as they are capable of & do their Children freely partake of Learning to fit them for Business? And are they & other Friends Children placed among Friends?

7th Do any young persons propose & make proposals of Marriage with each other without consent of parents or Relations concern & make Company with persons of other Societies on that Account?

8th Do no Widowers or Widows make or accept of proposals of marriage too early after the Decease of former Husband or Wife, and are not the Rights of Children by former Marriages neglected.

9th Do you maintain a faithfull Testimony against the payment of Priests Wages, bearing Arms, training or Military Service, and against the use of the Sword in the Hand of Civil Authority or Magistracy or any Government supported to be ours.

10th Are Friends carefull to make their Wills & not defer it to the Time of Sickness & to their Children & Estates whilst in health & the Friends advice therein when necessary, and are publick Testimonies against the Neglect of

11th Are Friends clear of importing Negroes or buying them when imported, and use those well while they remain in their Families & endeavouring to train them up in the principles of Religion?

12th Are Friends carefull to live within the Bounds of their Circumstances & avoid Trade & Business beyond their Ability & to pay their honestly Debts & all of their just Debts? And do they endeavour to get Settlements of Just on their Accounts having Differences with or Demands

Queries.

1st. Are there any belonging to the Monthly Meeting or Elsewhere any guilty of Fornication & are there any from other places appearing as Members who have not produced Certificates?

2d. Are you carefully & duly to deal with all Offenders in the Spirit of Meekness & Wisdom, without partiality & more especially delay to deal with any Eminent Members, to pass Judgment upon them in the Authority of Truth?

And it is further recommended that all Concerned in Personal reflection and smiting be kept out of our Meetings that all may be careful to keep out of them Expressions and Suggestions and that no Turbulent Contentions Spirit among us in discussing or managing the Affairs of Truth, but that the same be managed in the peaceable Spirit and Wisdom of Jesus with decency [illegible]

1716

The following was agreed & concluded on by the yearly Meeting held at Newport on Rhodeisland viz

The Meeting having been under a weighty concern on account of Enlarging our Meeting Creatures have come to a Conclusion, to make an Alteration in Our South Query and Substitute what follows in the room thereof viz —

Are Friends clear of Importing Buying or any way Dispersing of Negroes, as Slaves; And do they see those well that are under their Care, Not in Circumstances through Non age Incapacity to be set at Liberty; And do they give those that are [illegible] such an Education as becomes Christians And are they encouraged in a Religious & Virtuous life that are set at Liberty that are of Age Capacity & suitable [illegible]

Queſtions. 9

Which Query we recommend to the several Quarterly & Monthly meetings. That they take care that it be duly complyd with.

1773.

The following was Concluded by the Yearly meeting held at Newport on Rhoadeisland to be adopted Instead of the 10th Query viz.

1st. Friends Clear of Importing, buying or any way Purchasing disposing or holding of mankind as Slaves, And are all those who have been held in a State of Slavery, discharged there from.

And do those we have well under their care that are not in circumstances, through non age or Incapacity, to minister to their own necessities and not set fully at Liberty: And do they give those they bring up such an Education as becomes Christians; And are the others encouraged in a religious & virtuous Life.

Records.

Concerning Records.

1675

1675 See Discipline page 85.

1676

1676 Agreed that Friends of the Monthly and Quarterly Meetings of each County be reminded to keep an exact account among themselves. ——

What matters are to be recorded

1st 1: Of those that first brought the Message of Glad Tidings among them.

2 Of the Setting up of the first Meetings either in Houses, Marketplaces or otherwise.

3: What Persons first received the Truth in any Place.

4th Of the Names of the Faithful Ministers and Conversation of such public Labourers that are to be recorded.

5th What Judgments fell upon Persecutors.

6th Where the Hearts of any such Enemies have been turned to God; let them and their Conversion be recorded.

7th What Priests and others have written Books against Friends or the Truth, to be recorded.

8th Who have suffered Imprisonment, with the Cause, Time, and Manner of such Sufferings with the Names of their Persecutors.

9th Who have died in Prison on Truths account and for what of our Testimony: and that Sufferings taken away by force to be recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

10th Of signed Testimonies of Sufferings.

11th Of the Names of Persecutors and the Names of Witnesses to the Facts, whether Friends or Neighbours.

12th If any have Epistles, that their Sufferings related among the Truth be not forgotten, may be recorded with their Testimonies signified.

13th Of the manner of any Publications or Epistles in the Judgments before any Courts.

In the recording the Sufferings of the Meetings, and of Sufferings of Friends care to be taken to begin where they left off last and not to write the same twice over, nor confusedly.

1678

Records

1678

1678 Shall care for the future be taken to keep a particular Book to enter Sufferings in out Monthly Meeting as that by the Monthly Meetings an Account of the Sufferings be sent to the Quarterly Meetings and that the Quarterly Meetings transmitt the Accounts Duely to the Clerk of London that nothing be lost in the Cases of Sufferings for our Testimony

Monthly Meeting to keep a particular Book of Sufferings and Accounts to the Quarterly Meetings

See Tithes, page 328.

1680

1680 It is the Desire of this Meeting that every Quarterly Meeting enter such Epistles as they have Received from this or other like Meetings in their respective Quarterly Meeting Books the Better to secure them from being Lost.

Yearly Meeting Epistles

1681

1681 See Prisoners, page 245.

1682

1682 Agreed that Epistolary Letters read in this Yearly Meeting be entered in a Book and that the Letters themselves be kept by the Clerk.

Epistles

Book for Epistles

Draw up Sufferings fair in a Book Book to keep: & Mr Bates by themselves: to set down right for Cumberland &c: to set down Lancashire & North each by themselves: then take the Number of all that remain in Prison, both old and new: and the number of them that dies in Prison and so keep a number of them Mr Abbey that are put into Prison and that go out of Prison: and keep a yearly Number who comes in & goes out: and bring them up Yearly to the Yearly Meeting.

1689

Records.

1689

1689 The Abstract of Friends sufferings for Truths Testimony was long considered the Meeting thinks it most convenient to have the Heads or Sum from the Records of those sufferings that come up to the Yearly Meeting and which are recorded here & that the Meeting does not encourage the Making abstracts in the Counties lest they should be upon Friends suffrings. And when an History is taken and published it should be impartially done & accounts of the steps put by persecutions & of return of Goods & exchange of prisoners that have been procured by the substitution of Friends to the persons whose Hearts the Lord inclined to favour them.

1691

1691 It's desired that Friends keep the Yearly Meeting papers together in a book in each Monthly & Quarterly Meeting.

1693

1693 It is desired that Friends at all their Monthly and Quarterly meetings be reminded to call for the Records of the sufferings ~~of the suffering~~ of Friends & to see that they be duly gathered entered and keept, and accordingly as sent up as hath been often desired both of old & late & are ordered to be duly and for how long a time & the time when taken and by & for whom and what Goods are taken & the value thereof as well of those not suffering as those suffering the Sums or Quantities upon it being a Suffering or not for Truths sake the Long & Many particulars from defective and imperfect as from Counties which is an obstruction to the general knowledge of Friends sufferings and therefore the Monthly & Quarterly meetings are desired to take more care for the future that all Friends sufferings for Truths sake may be kept up as full & compleat in all respects as possibly may be.

1693

Records.

1694

1694 Advised that when Friends send up their yearly Accounts of Sufferings for Tithes &c. as near as can be they give account therewith how much is taken in value and how much it exceeds the pretended value and by & for whome.

Advised to remember to keep a true Record of manifest Judgments upon Persecutors and send up an Accot thereof with the Sufferings Yearly that the just Judgments of God in pleading the Cause of the Innocent Sufferers by signally punishing their persecutors may be taken notice of as a warning to posterity as the heavy Judgments & fearfull Ends of wicked persecutors are recorded in holy Scriptures & Books of Martyrs &c.

1695

1695 Advised to send up with the Sufferings true Copies of Warrants Writs & processe of Commitments attested by the Jaylors.

1698

1698 See Tithes, page 324.

1700

1700 Advised that Friends keep exact & true Accounts of all their Sufferings & Loss in Time to come Like both by Distresses Sequestrations & Imprisonments that we may be capable to give a true Account thereof to the Government when Necessity requires.

And to give yearly Accounts when Friends are discharged from imprisonments &c. and by what meanes.

1705

1705 It is hereby advised that Friends be carefull to make [illegible] in their Testamentary & keep exact Accounts of their Sufferings & what they Suffer by

Records.

requires speedy care for hearing of it and as written to Lon-
don desired the Case may be truely & fully stated & subscribed
by the Sufferers and as often as can be attested by some
known Friend.

1737

1737 See Questions. page 247. ———

1740

1740 This Meeting being informed that there is great De-
ficiency in entering into a Book the Testimonies which are
given forth by Monthly and Quarterly Meetings concerning
publick Friends deceased. therefore order a Book to be got for
that purpose in the Testimonies to be entered as they are brought
up.

And that the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings
from whence they come be particularly desired to enter the
same in their Book of Records, before said Testimonies are
sent up.

1746

1746 See Proceedings, page 309.

Removals & Settlements.

No 30. Rules for Removals & Settlements

1737

1737 1st: That all Friends shall be deem'd Members of the Monthly or two Weeks Meeting within the Compass of which they inhabitual or dwell the first Day of the fourth Month 1737 except such who are settled pensioners &c, or have within one Year last past been relieved by any other such Meeting: in that case, he she or they shall be deem'd a Member or Members of the Meeting to which they are pensioners or by whom they have been so relieved.

2d: That if any Friend or Friends shall remove [illegible] or pensioners are hereby put the limits & Compass of the Monthly Meeting or two Weeks Meeting into another they shall apply to the Meeting they may belong to & obtain a Certificate or other usual recommendation to the Meeting they are removed or purpose to remove into which being obtained and delivered to that Meeting, such Friend or Friends shall from thence forward be deem'd as Members or Member of the Meeting they are so removed into: provided they were not insolvent, or had been relieved by the Meeting recommending, or some other Meeting on their behalf within the [illegible] preceding the delivery of such Certificate.

But if any Friend or Friends who has delivered a Certificate, or been otherwise recommended shall fall into necessitous Circumstances and shall ask and receive any relief within the above limited time of three years not having actually been employed in the service of the Church by the Meeting they were recommended to, such Friend or Friends shall then continue to belong to the Meeting from whence they were recommended: yet the Meeting within the Compass of which he, she or they reside shall assist & relieve him here or them, and give notice thereof to the Meeting which recommended him her or them: and upon that Meetings receiving such Notice, they shall immediately [illegible] of them or them, and repay the Charge the Meeting to which they were [illegible] settlement.

Removals & Settlements.

1737 3d 3: That no Friend or Friends Apprentices & other Servants excepted shall gain a Settlement after the time above mentioned in any Meeting unless recommended by Certificate or other Usual Recommendation to the same duly signed to the Meeting they are recommended to except the Meeting within the Compass of which they resive shall receive their Collection or employ them in any Service of the Church but in Case such Meeting shall receive their Collection & employ them in any Service of the Church then as long shall it like such Friend or Friends Membership with them agreeable to the restriction and tenor of the second paragraph.

1st 8th: If any Friend or Friends shall fall into want the Monthly Meeting within the Compass of which they then resid shall take the necessary Care to relieve them. And in order to prevent any Inconveniencies that may arise from want of knowing with certainty to what Meeting such Friend or Friends properly belong at the time they fall into want whereby it may be rendered difficult for the Monthly meeting which shall relieve such necessitous persons to obtain repayment of the Charge they may be at on such Accounts. It is agreed that when any such Friend or Friends shall become chargeable to any Meeting where he she or they may reside Monthly at the same time or not prove Members thereof that Meeting may apply to any Meeting where such Friend or Friends have been Members: any that Meeting upon notice to them given of such necessitous Friend or Friends shall take the needfull care of them and repay the Charge the Meeting in which they resive hath been or shall be at.

But if that Meeting shall apprehend such necessitous person or persons to not belong to them, but have gain'd a Settlement else where they may fix them on any other Meeting where they have gained a Settlement and in that Case such Meeting shall repay them the Charges they have been at.

5th

Removals & Settlements.

1737/ 5th 5th Single Men and Women Servants being bred one Year & honestly serving the same in one Family after such Years Service shall belong to the Meeting of which their Master or Mistress shall be a Member: and such Servants shall so dwell with any who are not Friends then they shall be deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting within the Compass of which their Master or Mistress shall live.

6th 6th Apprentices shall gain a Settlement in that Meeting within the Compass of which their Master or Mistress dwell at the time of his or her being bound and living forty days with such Master or Mistress afterwards: and in case an Apprentice shall be turned over to another Master or Mistress he or she shall in like manner gain a Settlement after living with them forty Days in the Meeting within the Compass of which the Master or Mistress dwell to whom he or she is turned over.

7th 7th Provided always that nothing herein contained shall be construed to hinder the usual and necessary Care of Friends in their inquiry after conversation & clearness respectively but Certificates or other recommendation in writing shall continue to be required as heretofore hath been practised in the Monthly Meetings to which both belonge: and that disputes may not arise about Settlements where Members produce Certificates or recommendation from the Meeting they belonged to another on account of marriage it is hereby agreed that such Certificate or recommendation shall not be construed to make a Settlement unless his removal be expressed therein.

8th 8th The wife and Children to be deemed Members of the Monthly Meeting of which the Husband or Father is a Member not only during his Life but likewise after his decease until they shall gain another Settlement elsewhere.

9th 9th Provided always (and it is hereby agreed) that what Charges any Meeting have or may be at for the relief of any Friends or Friends who were before this Settlement Members of other Monthly Meetings shall be repaid to the said Meeting by the Meeting to which they did belong before. But that if any dispute should arise about the Settlement of such poor Friends or Friends now under Relief such Settlements & Settlements shall be determined according to

the

Removals & Settlements

1737. the former under the head Poor, Rules & Directions: which are not to be made use of in any other Cases.

Lastly, the Monthly Rules & Directions hereto-
Laws which are under this head given — fore made and recommended by this Meeting relating to re-
movals and Settlements of Friends is hereby declared
to be void & of no force except in the Cases provided for
in the 9th paragraph.

1737

It is agreed that no proposition for altering the Rules
for Removals and Settlements of Friends made in 1737
shall be received by this Meeting unless such propo-
sition shall be signed in and by order of a Quarterly
Meeting, or some other Meeting which is directly
corresponded with this Meeting.

1737

1737 See Discipline page. 88: 89.

Representatives.

Concerning Representatives.

1672

1672 Advised, that one or two of each County that are concerned in the publick service of Truth, in each respective County, do come up to this Meeting once a Year: to be chosen & elected by the Quarterly Meeting of each County respectively for that purpose.

See Yearly Meeting, pages 357.

1687

1687 Advised that such faithfull Friends one in the County be desired to attend the Yearly Meeting as are most capable & fit for the service thereof.

1688

1688 That two faithfull Friends in every County may be desired to come up who know the state of Friends and their sufferings in their respective Counties.

1690

1690 That two faithfull understanding Friends in every County be desired to come up who may be able to give a certain account of the condition & sufferings of Friends in their respective Counties.

1691

1691 That two faithfull understanding Friends in every County who are truly approved in universal Love, Unity & peace among Friends from whence they come may be desired to come up who may be able to give a certain & clear account of the condition & sufferings of Friends, and of Truth's prosperity in their respective Counties.

1700

1700 Agreed that no County send up less than two Friends nor more than four to be entered.

Advised

Representatives.

1700 Advised. that Friends bring brief and direct Answers to the Questions drawn up at the Quarterly Meetings and brought in Writing to the Yearly Meeting.

1706

1706 See Questions, page 285.

1709

1709 This Meeting understanding some Friends that are Representatives yet out of Town before the Yearly Meeting is End. It is now advised and agreed that for the future no Representatives yet out of Town before the Meeting does without first acquainting the Meeting therewith that the Service of this Meeting may not be neglected.

not to goe out of Town before the Meeting ends

1718

1718 Recommended. that Friends take care that they be not disposed nor appointed to come up to Yearly Meetings may be after fearing God of good Conversation of weighty Spirits Prudent Sincere well acquainted with the Affairs of Truth at home.

Qualifications

1728

1728 Advised. that the several Quarterly Meetings of the Counties & Cities do appoint at least four Friends in order that in Case a part should be disappointed by Sickness or other accident there may be a sufficient Number to answer the service.

four to be appointed

1730

1730 This Meeting gives liberty in right of the County of York that for the future they may be admitted to enter any Number as Representatives that are willing & right.

1733

1733 That the Friends of every Monthly Meeting to the several Quarterly Meetings so that they may be careful annually to depute such Friends to attend the Service of the Yearly Meeting as are well acquainted with the Affairs of the Church and diligent attenders of Meetings for Discipline in the respective Counties & places where they dwell, and in whose practice

Care

Representatives

and Conversation as is becoming to the Testimony they profess to bear.

1743

1743 We advise, that the several Quarterly Meetings take care to appoint for their Representatives and Correspondents Men known to be faithfull and conscientious in every Branch of our Christian Testimony.

1746

1746 attendance required

This Meeting observing a Liberty in Ministers not duly attending this Meeting, recommends to the several Quarterly Meetings the following Minute viz. See Minute of this Meeting in 1718 (See page 270) and the Minute of this Meeting in 1733 (See page 270)

1750

1750 The Advice in 1748 upon the Yearly Meeting, pag 365.

Schools.

No 39. Concerning Schools.

1690 — 1690

See Children page 35.36.

1695

1695 Advised that Schools and School-Masters who are faithfull Friends and well qualified be plac'd and encouraged in all Counties Cities great Towns & where there may be need and that such School Masters as must as may be sometimes come over with us for their help and improvement in such good & easie methods as are most agreeable to the Truth & the Children Adventure Benefit in that we do exhort that our Friends & Children may Freely partake of such Education in order to Apprenticeships.

1696

1696 See Children page 37.

1697

1697 Quarterly and Monthly Meetings are desired to take Care that in all places where Schools are set up for the teaching of Friends Children that they must be diligent to improve and forward their Children in learning and keep them out of every thing that would corrupt their Manners.

1745

1745 See Meetings for Discipline pag. 162.

1755

1755 As the most proper Persons amongst Friends to be Employed for School Masters hath been the Occasion of great Damage to the Society in many places as they not being Employed Friends are deprived of Opportunities for the Education of their Children in a manner consistent with a Religious Concern for their welfare have been necessitated to send them to the Schools of other persuasions whereby the Tender Minds of such Children have been in great danger of being leavened into the Loose Customs & Manners of the World from whence it is difficult afterwards to reclaim them.

Schools.

1901 We hope Friends will attend this important point and in their Monthly Meetings assist young men of good Testimonies whose gifts and service may be suitable for that office, with the means requisite to obtain the proper Qualifications and when a Suitable offer make the necessary encouragement for their support.

1903

1903 - adjourned.

It is advised that each Monthly Meeting appoint a judicious Committee, as a School Committee, whose service it shall be to confer together, and with Friends in procuring suitable primers to Teach Schools to advise and assist them in the regulation of the same. And it is our desire that no primers after this year be used by Members of the Society, and under the regulation of this without the particular approval of the Committee of Friends throughout the Yearly Meeting are desired to give special attention to give the care of Schools to such that would appear much concerned to bring them forward, and that Monthly Meetings should encourage such to attend the Yearly Meeting & the proper Friends this in your hand concerned.

Scriptures.

Notes Concerning the Scriptures.

§108

§108 Advised that Parents and Guardians of Children do acquaint them early and bring them up in the frequent reading of the Scriptures of Truth and also to instruct them in the great Love of God through Jesus Christ and the Way of Salvation by him in Sanctification through his blessed Spirit.

§109

§109 We recommend it as an incumbent Duty on Friends to excite their Children to be frequent in reading the holy Scriptures, and in observing to them the Examples of such Children as in Scripture are recorded to have early known the Fear of the Lord and hearkened to his Counsel: instructing them in the fear and love of the Lord planting in their Spirits a reverence towards God from whom they have their holy support, shewing them they ought not to live to him, but Love, serve & honour Him in whose hand all Blessings are.

§112

§112 We exhort all Parents & Children to be very careful to educate and train them up in the Fear of God and Knowledge of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ according to the holy Scriptures, and be good Examples to them in all things.

§120

§120 Advised that no Friends suffer Romances, Play Books or other vain & idle Pamphlets in their Houses or Families which do corrupt the Minds of Youth, but to shun them & that they excite them to the reading of the holy Scriptures & Religious Books.

Let the holy Scriptures be early taught our Youth, and diligently searched & seriously read by Children with regard to the holy Spirit from whence they came, and by which they are truly opened for they testify of Christ & lead & bring to him & the Love of God that they all

Scriptures.

1720 be no need to enumerate or often to repeat Laws & precepts like the Jews under a literal and lower dispensation & covenant. those we are called into the true practice of the pure Religion given us will answer all.

1723

1723 See Children page 85.

1728

1728 Advised that Ministers as well as Elders in all others in all their preaching, Writing & Conversing about the things of God, do keep to the form of sound Words, or Scripture Terms, and that None pretend to be Wise above what is there written and in such pretended Wisdom go about to explain the things of God in the Words that mans Wisdom teacheth, but on the contrary that you would at proper times and Seasons, when you find your hearers rightly disposed Recommend & give the Youth to understand, that the true good Experience of the Work of Sanctification through the Operations of the Spirit of God, which the holy Scriptures plentifully bear Testimony to is to be witnessed by believers in all Generations, as well as by those in the first Ages of Christianity in which Case some Account of your own Experience will be helpfull to them:

And this we recommend as the most effectual Means for begetting & establishing in their Minds a firm belief of the Christian Doctrine in General, as well as the necessity of the daily help of the operations of the holy Spirit of God in the hearts of Men in particular contained in that most excellent Book the Bible and for the preserving them from being defiled with the many pernicious Notions & principles contrary to such sound Doctrine which are at this time industriously dispersed in the Nation to the reproach of the Christian Religion in general:

1729

Scriptures.

1729

1729 It is recommended to all Friends as much as in them lies to prevent their Children & Servants from reading Plays Romances & all such Books as have any tendency to lead their minds from God: and draw their youthfull Affections to a Love of the World, and desire after the vanities & Evils that are therein.

And also to be very carefull to prevent their Children and Servants from reading vile and Corrupt Books (some of which have been published of late) as manifestly tend to oppose and reject the Divine Authority of the holy Scriptures and to introduce Deism, Atheism, and all Manner of Infidelity & Corruption both in Principle & Practice.

1730

1730 We did last Year and do now again earnestly recommend and beseech all Friends to admonish & exhort the Youth under their Care, not to read but to shun all such Books as tend to make void the Divine Authority of the holy Scriptures, and to promote profaneness & Infidelity in the Earth.

1731

1731 It is recommended to all heads of Families that they frequently call their Children & Servants together, and in a solemn religious way cause them to read the holy Scriptures: and in so doing that they Humbly wait upon God with their Families for Instruction and Counsel to them respecting Christian Faith and practice.

See Children: page 163 bb.

Scriptures.

¶32

¶32 We tenderly and earnestly advise & exhort all Ps
rents & Masters of families, that they excel themselves
in the Wisdom of God, and in the Strength of his love
to instruct their Children & Families in the Doctrine
and precepts of the Christian Religion contained in the
holy Scriptures and that they excite to a diligent
reading of those sacred Writings which plainly set
forth the miraculous Conception, Birth, holy Life,
Wonderfull Works, blessed Example, meritorious Death
and Glorious Resurrection, Ascension & Mediation
of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ: and to
educate their Children in the belief of those im
portant Truths, as well as in the belief of the
inward manifestation and operation of the Spirit
of God, on their own minds, that they may reap the
benefit and advantage thereof for their own peace &
everlasting Happiness which is infinitely preferable
to all other Considerations we therefore exhort in the
most earnest Manner, that all be very carefull in
this respect, Neglect herein being in our Judgments
very Blameworthy and further where any deficiency
of this sort appears, we recommend to Monthly and
Quarterly Meetings that they stir up those whom
it may Concern to their Duty therein.

¶33

¶33 And dear Friends we must remind you to
take all convenient opportunities to put your Chil
dren upon reading and meditating in the holy Scrip
tures, which having proceeded from the Dictates of the
holy Spirit do afford the most comfortable & Salutary
Instructions of all Writings whatever, as we have
heretofore often advised, and particularly in our
Epistles of the two last Years, in which the advices
on that head being large and comprehensive we refer
thereto.

Scriptures.

1734

1734 As there hath been heretofore so there yet remains upon this Meeting a peculiar regard to & weighty concern for the Offspring of Friends that the rising Generation might be trained up in the principles & practice of the Christian Religion in their assemblys as formerly & now again we recommend unto humble waiting upon the Lord for the Manifestation of his grace & Spirit and a Diligent reading of the holy Scriptures in your Families and that Heads of Families Parents and Guardians of Children all proper and convenient opportunities would stir up those under their Care to diligence herein shewing them that those sacred Writings do contain the Doctrines and principles of our profession and explaining them as the Lord by his good Spirit shall enable, the Grounds and Causes inducing Friends to distinguish themselves by not conforming to the vain Fashions and corrupt Customs of the World. And that our great exemplar coming was to form to himself a People who by their lives & conversations should be patterns to that Simplicity, Holiness & Charity which our great Lord hath set forth in the most perfect Manner exhibited leaving us an Example that we should follow his Steps.

By Simplicity we understand an inward sincerity and an holy disposition of mind preserving that plainness of Speech Habit and Manners which Christ himself & his holy Apostles recommended by holiness and internal Purity & Renovation of heart wrought in us by the Grace of God, the Fruits whereof are a Love and religious behaviour, Justice and Inoffensiveness in all our Dealings & Conversation by Charity that the Spirit of Love Compassion and Forbearance, wherein consists the Sum & Substance of Religion the introduction of that universal Peace & good will upon Earth which is the great Design of Christianity as well as the Duty & Characteristick of our holy profession & by this saith our Lord shall all men know that ye are my Disciples if ye have Love one to another

John: 13:35.

Scriptures.

1735

For it hath been frequently the Care & Concern of this Meeting to advise Parents, and all who have the Charge & Education of Children to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, we are still sensible that there is Occasion to repeat our tender Advice and Exhortation, that you would lay this matter closely to heart, for tis certain that the preservation of your Offspring in the way of true Religion and Godliness is of much greater moment to their Happiness both in this life & in that which is to come, than any thing else you are capable of doing for them and therefore we renew our Advice, that you be diligently exercised in such as Godly Care waiting upon God for Wisdom from time to time first to walk wisely and circumspectly before them yourselves and then you may with more weight & authority in the Meekness of that Wisdom, instruct, advise warn & rebuke as you shall see Occasion: and we think it will contribute very much to your success in these Endeavours if you put them frequently in a solemn manner upon reading the holy Scriptures especially such parts of them as relate to the great Doctrines & precepts of the Christian Religion and there wait upon God with them, that they may become Instruments to open their understandings, and in the sense of this power and Wisdom press them closely to the practice of what they read.

Such an Exercise as this begun early and frequently repeated we recommend as the most likely means for the preservation and improvement of Children in the way of Truth: and through the Lord's Blessing to secure them from being prevailed upon by the many false deceitful Spirits that are gone forth into the World, to draw into and seek the Christian Faith, the Practice & Conversation agreeable thereto.

1736

See Children, page 411.

1737

See Kings & Governours, page 820.

Scriptures.

1745

See Meetings for Discipline. page. 162.

Mss Concerning Servants.

1703

1703 Advised. that Servants professing the Truth behave themselves in due Subjection, Humility & plainness, as becomes their profession & places: and likewise that Masters and Mistresses behave themselves towards their Servants according to the Apostles Direction Epk: 6. 5.6. Coles. 3:5. 1st Tim.o 6: 1.2. Tit.s 2:9,10. 1st Pet.r 2: 18, 19, 20.

1718

1718 A religious Care is recommended towards our Servants, that all appearance of Pride, Fullness & vain Conversation in them may be discouraged, and that they may be exhorted to attend first Day & Weekday Meetings and have a sense of Gods Love upon their Spirits and therein partake with us of the Sweetness & Unity in the Assurance of their Duty to God and to their Masters & Mistresses, know peace in themselves.

1737

1737 See Removals & Settlements page 262, 263.

Singing.

An Concerning Singing.

1675

1675 It hath been and is our Living Sense & constant Testimony according to our Experience of the divers operations of the Spirit & Power of God in his Church, that there hath been and is serious Sighing, sensible Groaning, and reverent singing, breathing forth an heavenly Joy & Joy with Grace, with the Spirit and with understanding in Gospel Unity with the Brethren, while they are in the publick Labour & Service of the Gospel, whether by preaching, praying or praising God in the same power & Spirit, and all to Edification & Comfort in the Church of Christ which therefore is not to be Quenched or Discouraged by any: but where any do or shall abuse the power of God or are immoderate or do exhibit in immitation which rather burthens than Edifies such ought to be privately admonished unless rebellious, for that life Spirit and power is seen in the Church which doth distinguish, and hath Power accordingly to Judge.

Steeple house Rules.

Testimonies concerning Steeple house Rules

1688

1688 See Sufferings, page 308.

1693

1693 Advised that our Christian Testimony against Steeple house Rules & Days be faithfully maintained.

1703

1703 See Tithes, pag. 325.
1727 1727. See Tithes, pag. 328.
1732 1732. See Tithes pag. 328.
1733 1733. See Meetings for Discipline, pa. 157. and Tithes page 329.
1746. See Queries page 418.

Stock National.

Acts Concerning the National Stock

1692 & 1696

1692 1696 The uses for which it is collected.
1. For the Service of Ireland beyond Sea.
2. Other Books disposed of and given away to the chief Rulers & Others.
3. For packets of Post Letters with Accounts of general Sufferings & Charges of Receiving & often transcribing the Same

1689

1689 Disbursments out of the National Stock to be such only as shall be agreed & directed by the weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London & not any other.

1687

1687 Agreed, that for keeping the Monies of the National Stock, at every Yearly Meeting, three Friends shall be chosen, & those three of the Six that have served two preceding Years, shall Yearly be dismissed & others to be appointed in their roome as aforesaid so that the Number of Six may be still compleat who shall have the keeping of the Cash for the general Service intended.

Six Friends to keep the Cash

1692

1692 Advised that for the future when there shall be Occasion for a Contribution Friends that come up from the several Counties bring with them an Account of the Total Sum of such Collection that may be made in their respective Counties to the next ensuing Yearly Meeting after such Collection is made that it may be compared with the Accounts here for Friends Satisfaction therein.

1698

Stock National

1698

1698 Ordered, that when ye Collections is made in the several Counties it may be sent up to their Correspondents here to pay the Meeting for Suffering's & the Friends of the several Counties, when they come up to the next Yearly Meeting to bring up the Total Sum collected and returned in their County to the Yearly Meeting.

1732

1732 See Yearly Meeting pag. 362

1772

Agreed on by the Yearly meeting of Rhode Island, That Subscriptions Collections & Donations, ought to be received from the members of our Society only.

Sufferings.

Acts Concerning Sufferings.

1672

1672. Advised that Friends be exact & brief in drawing up their Sufferings in each County, of the Times, Names, Causes & places of both Friends and their persecutors distinctly, and send them up to the next general Meeting.

1675

1675 Meeting about Sufferings for appointed. Agreed that Certain Friends of this City be hereby nominated, to keep a constant Meeting about Sufferings four times a Year, with the Day and time of each Meeting to be fixed & settled.

Agreed that a Meeting of these ensuing Friends under named be every fifth Day of the Week before each Term.

Ratcliff . . Arthur Cock, and Richard Hoo.
London . . John Osgood, and Thomas Rudyard.
Whitehall . . Francis Moore, and William Welch.
Westminster . . Gilbert Dalby, and James Beech.
Poole . . John Elsone, and John Stapole.
Southwark . . William Shewen, and Peter Hyam.

Public Friends Meeting.

These Friends before named with as many as can for the second Days Morning Meeting of Public Friends, to meet together as aforesaid.

One of each County.

That at least one Friend of each County be appointed by the Quarterly Meeting there, & in readiness to repair to any of the said Meetings at this City at such times as their urgent occasions & Sufferings shall require.

That the agreement about the Meeting for Sufferings four times in a Year in London be read to the second Days Meeting of this City constantly before the Day of the Meeting appointed.

Sufferinges.

1675 That the respective Quarterly Meetings be encouraged in the Feare of God and Bowels of his Love to take care for such poore Friends as have been wasted much with Sufferings & where any County is not sufficient to the losses among themselves, that they be mindefull of the order of Truth agreed to of recommending their Case to the adjacent Counties.

That notwithstanding the Meeting about Sufferings by the nominated Friends of this City, it is consented and agreed, that in any County Meeting or place in England or Wales where any deep Sufferings may happen the Monthly or Quarterly Meetings may both state their Case fit to be presented to those in power and send up one or three faithfull Friends with their Case so stated to be presented to allen those in power therewith for relief, if they be made thereunto or find a necessity lying upon them to endeavour for relief in this is a most likely way to be effectual in their applications.

1676

1676 The Records Article 8th and the last, page 253.

1678

1678 Mention is first made of the Weekly Meeting for Sufferings in London.

and see Records, page 254.

1679

1679 Agreed that if any Quarterly or Monthly Meeting has any extraordinary or grievous Sufferings in their County that they would have speedy speedy notice thereof and send up the same to the Meeting for Sufferings.

1681

1681 That when Sufferings are sent up in order to any particular Case the same be sent to the Sufferers Sustained goods restrained &c

Sufferings.

1682 illegal Treatment & Usage by Justices &c. the Sufferers plain pertinant and distinct as to matter of Fact only without any Reflections upon the Magistrates &c. by whom Friends have Suffered or against whom any Complaint is made.

That Sufferings sent up to be recorded here to first perused by the Quarterly Meeting and Signed.

1682

1682 And when necessity requires that Accounts of Sufferings be sent up with such speed that they cannot stay for a Monthly or Quarterly Meeting, that such Accounts be viewed and approved under the hands of three or four Friends at least, to prevent Mistakes, and left uncertain Accounts of things complained of: and that before any Accounts be entered in the Quarterly Meeting Books the same be plainly and fairly drawn up by some knowing Friends in such Concerns.

Upon consideration of Sufferings in general it is the Advice of this Meeting that in case of Difficulty and where Friends who are Sufferers stand in need of Advice in any particular Case they send up their respective Cases to the Meeting for Sufferings in London.

1684

1684 If a Friend's Goods be seized and a Neighbour buy them from the Sheriff and they by Bill of Sale be made over to him and he leave them in the Sufferers Possession this is a Suffering Case and to be recorded as it is in itself.

It is thought most convenient that all particular Accounts of any great & extraordinary Sufferings which require speedy Application or Complaint to the Magistrates be carefully drawn up and signed by the respective Sufferers and the Truth thereof if possible certified by some other faithful Friends of the same County or Neighbourhood known here that then they be brought up by one or two understanding Friends that may be capable to present them if need require further knowledge of the particular Cases and that no such Accounts be sent up unsigned.

Sufferings

1688

1688 And it is the desire of Friends generally that you all be carefull in your Monthly & Quarterly Meetings in collecting the Sufferings of Friends by Fines and Imprisonment for their Testimony against Tithes in what Cases can be taken from them & that Account with the Value thereof in Wares about repairs of Meeting houses and about not swearing and all other Sufferings as shall this Account: and let them be carefully recorded the Witness of Cases sent up to London from your Quarterly Meetings & your Correspondents that the Sufferings of Friends for their Testimony may not be lost.

Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to collect Sufferings.

1689

1689 See Records, page 255.

1693

1693 The Meeting for Sufferings is intrusted with the Care of all Sufferings of Friends for Truth & Conscience sake as at first mented.

See Records, page 255

1695

1695 See Records. page 256.

1700

1700 See Records, page 256.

1703

1703 And when any Friend or Friends shall be prosecuted upon any Branch of their Testimony for the Truth, that such Labour in a sense of the weight of their Testimony with the prosecutor before or at the beginning of his prosecution that so if possible the Witness of God in him may be reached and he convinced that their refusal to comply proceeds not from any self Interest but from a godly and pure Conscience void of Offence towards God & man.

Sufferings

1776

1776 This Meeting desires that for the future an Account of all proceedings on such Sufferings as may come under the Care of this Meeting for Sufferings on the Same thereof may be duly brought or sent to that Meeting in Writing specifying the Places & Counties where such Sufferers dwell with the several proceedings in the said Cases in order to be duly recorded.

1781

Testimony to be Recorded

The Testimony of many Friends in the Nonparticipation of Taxes, part whereof goes to the Support of war, coming under Consideration of this Meeting. It is our Sense & Judgment that the ~~Sufferings~~ several Monthly meetings collect Accounts of the Sufferings of our Brethren on the s^d of said Testimony, & send them up to the Meeting for Sufferings, there to be Recorded, after due Inspection in Friends Book of Sufferings, as our Brethren's Testimony for the Truth against the Appropriation of any part thereof to the purposes of war. And it is Recommended to Friends that labouring to be preserved Unbiassed herein as to the Sources which Are, or may be, they keep an Eye single to the Testimony of Truth against War & Fighting.

Talebearing & Backbiting.

Lib. Concerning Talebearing and Backbiting.

1689

1689 Advised to watch against and shun all Occasions of Offences, Contentions & Divisions, and in the Exam[ina]t[io]n of the Said to stop and judge down all Whisperings, Talebearings, Backbiting & evil speaking by any Instruments, not to be hasty and to receive hasty one another and earnestly Labour and pursue for universal Love, union & peace in all the Churches of Christ.—

1692

1692 Advised to be carefull and watchfull against all Whisperings Backbitings & Talebearings to the Disturbance of Friends or others and put a Stop thereto and that Superiors judgment upon all Whisperers & Backbiters, who appear Instruments of Division and Offences contrary to that peaceable Truth and Gospel we profess: and where any have private Offence against any that first to speak privately to the party concerned, endeavour reconciliation between themselves, and not to Whisper or aggravate Matters against them behind their Backs to the Disturbing parties and the Breach wider.

1693

1693 Let these just and ancient Commands of God be observed Levit. 19. Thou shalt not go up and down as a Talebearer among thy people and Exod 23:1 Thou shalt not raise a false Report, and Psalm 15:3 He that backbiteth not with his Tongue, nor doth Evil to his Neighbour, nor taketh up a Reproach against his Neighbour &c. his only such innocent one that shall abide in the Lords Tabernacle and dwell in his holy Hill.

Talebearing & Backbiting.

1695 Will wherefore in the fear of the Lord, stand against all Whisperers, Backbiters, Talebearers, Defamers, and Slanderers and against all Whisperings, Backbitings, Talebearings, Reproaching and Slandering; and put a Speedy Stop thereunto as much as in you lies: for such Paths of Darkness are very hard to clear from and discord and the righteous Law of God goes against both the Authors, Fomenters, receivers & Encouragers thereof, See Prov. 11:13. & 18:8 & 20:19 & 26:20:22. and 2d Cor. 12:20.

1719

1719 The former Advice of 1695, repeated, with this addition, and therefore if you hear a report of a Friend be carefull not to report it again, but go to the person of whom the Report is, & enquire if it be true or not and if it be true then deal with such a person for it according to the Doctrine of Christ. Matt 18. But if false, then endeavour as much as in you lies to stop such Reports for as Solomon says A good Name is rather to be Chosen than great Riches Prov. 22:1.

1725 1725 The Advices of 1695 & 1719 repeated.
1727 1725 The former Advices again repeated.
1727 The same again recommended.

1733

We think proper to exhort Friends everywhere to avoid all Whisperings, Backbitings & Talebearings tending to blemish the Reputation of any or to sow Discord, and create evil surmisings one of another: a practice which ought to be Zealously discouraged as being of a most pernicious consequence to Society: It is therefore recommended that when any shall hear a Report of such a Nature they take an opportunity to acquaint the person concerned thereof before they again report, or be Instrumental to spread the same in order to stop the Mouths of all Talebearers

Tale bearing & Backbiting.

1733 and Slanderers, Friends would do well to manifest their dislikeing to such a practice. The North Wind saith Solomon driveth away Rain, so doth an angry Countenance a Backbiting Tongue. Prov. 25: 23.

See Defamation: pages 81: 82 :

1744

1744 Whereas it may happen that some Friends may Suffer much in their Reputation & Character by a Detracting Spirit which too much prevails among some bearing our Name, who shelter themselves under a pretence that they say no more than they have heard from others, but will not discover who they are wherefore to prevent this Evil of Reporting & Tale bearing to the prejudice of others, it is agreed that such Reporters or Talebearers shall either discover the Authors or be dealt with, and testified against as Authors thereof. ——

Testimonies or Memorials

1760 It is Recommended to the Quarterly & monthly Meetings to Appoint Suitable Friends to collect Memorials of the Living Services & dying sayings of Ministers Elders And other Friends whose Lives were remarkable for true piety & faithfulness with the time of their birth & death as near as may be with a distinction between Minister Elder & other And where they Lived & that such Collections be Inspected by Each Quarterly And Monthly Meeting And from time to time send them up to this Meeting to be Recorded.

1783 Testimonies to be read in publick Meetings under

Report of a Committee to the yearly Meeting at Newport 1783 received and adopted by the Meeting as follows

It is the judgment of this Committee that it may be left to read all Testimonies & Epistles in a publick Meeting except Monthly Meetings every the person or persons discovered to have lived such lives that they have not been deemed Members among Friends by people not of our Society, or unless it shall appear to the judgment of the Monthly Meeting such publication may be injurious to the cause of Truth: That Testimonies & Epistles be published at the discretion of the Monthly Meetings those duely observing the Discipline

Tithes —

N 47 Concerning Tithes.

1675

1675 Advised that our ancient Testimony against Tithes which we have born from the beginning which many have deeply suffered some not only the Spoiling of their Goods but Imprisonment even unto Death, be carefully & punctually upheld and countenanced in the power of God: and that all those who shall be found neglect that Testimony be looked upon no doubt without as unfaithfull to the ancient and universal Testimony of Truth according to ye first Order established among us.

our ancient Testimony to be upheld

Offenders to be dealt with

That Truths Testimony against Tithes Friends Innocency in suffering be kept to: and that innocent Endeavours may be used to save them from being taken away, yet that Friends be carefull of over hard Struggling to retain them, when the Adversary comes to take them by force.

Innocency in Suffering to be kept to See 1689 p^o 322

1676

1676 That Tithes taken away by force be recorded as a Suffering for Truth.

That all Friends have a care that they neither openly nor secretly consent to the taking away of their Tithes nor to the payment of them by any one whatsoever on their behalf, but keep faithfull to their Testimony. —

No consent

1678

1678 And because some have not kept an Account of the Tithes in kind that have been taken from them as if that were no Suffering because the Priests and Impropriators pretend due, we find our selves engaged in Spirit to desire you to reckon that of Tithe amongst the other Sufferings that you send up and for the time to come to take the same care of recording Tithe taken away upon that Account in your Book of Sufferings.

Tithes in Kind —

See Records page 2511.

Tithes

1682

1682 It is the sense of this Meeting that the Executors who have a Testimony for Truth have a Testimony against the paying of the Tithes pretended to be due from the Testator, and ought to bear his Testimony against payment thereof.

1687

1687 We do in the love of God and his blessed Truth and Testimony of Jesus Christ recommend to your tender and Christian Care, that Friends in the several Counties do sincerely keep to their ancient and Christian Testimony against that old and great Oppression of Tithes for which many faithful Ministers & servants of Christ have deeply suffered (some till Death in Jayles) and several yet do suffer, whereby it appeareth that the priests, as they were the first, so they are like to be the last Persecutors for conscience sake: and also we request it of you carefully to collect and make return of all Friends Sufferings for Tithes, as well as other Sufferings, whether by Imprisonments, or by taking away Goods, as Corn, Cattle or other Goods, either by Warrant or without Law, both which are Sufferings & ought to be accounted of, and entered upon Record, in behalf of all Faithfull Friends who stand clear in their Testimony for Truth.

Sufferings by Warrant or without Law to be recorded

1689

1689 We desire your Testimony against Tithes may be kept up in the peaceable Spirit of Christ, as becomes true Christians, rather suffering patiently in the Spoiling of your Goods than any way to strive to struggle with the Spoilers to retain them by Force, but simply commit your Case to the Lord who will plead it, & judge righteously.

Not to strive with the Spoilers.

1690

1690 That all Friends be faithfull in their Testimony against Tithes & all sorts knowing that since they were ended by Christ they were imposed and originally sprung from that Antichristian Root, & popish usurpation in Church & State. And that Friends carefully consider that where any decline their Testimony, or are negligent in this weighty case they do thereby increase the weight and burthens of sufferings upon them that are faithfull & strengthen the hands of their Adversaries.

1691

1691 That the Christian Testimony against Tithes may be duly kept up and such as are unfaithfull therein be diligently exhorted to Obedience & Faithfullness to Christ Jesus that they may not strengthen the persecuting hands, Increase tithes Sufferings nor make voide Truths Testimony therein which so many have offered up and laid down their Lives for.

1692

1692 That Friends be carefull & diligent to keep up their ancient Christian Testimony against the Oppression of Tithes in the more faithfull & unanimous Friends are therein, we are really perswaded the Lord will the sooner make way for our ease and deliverance from that burthen.

1693

1693 Advised that our christian Testimony against the grand Oppression of Antichristian Tythe of Tithes born and greatly suffered for be carefully maintained in all respects.

1696.

Tithes.

1696

1696 With respect to a proposal about taking a farm and agreeing to pay so much the more to be exempted from Tithes, it is left to the several Monthly & Quarterly Meetings to advise Friends to be carefull that nothing be done that tends to weaken our Testimony against Tithes by any, & that such be admonished as they see cause.

1698

1698 Advised, that our ancient Christian Testimony against Tithes be not avoided or shunned by any indirect Ways or Courses with Landlords or otherwise, & that Friends be carefull to keep a true record of the corn, what & when from them or that account in the Field or otherwise whether it exceeds the demand or not; with the respective date of each Suffering & the time when any Suit is commenced

1701

1701 Our Testimony against Tithes and for the maintenance of the Gospel Ministry being received from the Lord and High Priest, is not of our own contriving or imposing nor from the Tradition of Men, but what we have from Him by whose divine power we are raised up to be a people, and by which we have been preserved to this day, knowing that his Ministry and Gospel are free according to his own express command freely ye have received freely give.

Tithes.

1703

1703 This Meeting having taken notice as well from the Accounts of Sufferings brought in from the Counties as Relations by several Friends now present, that in many places Advantages are taken upon Friends by making Stoppages upon them in the way of Trade or by Letters or otherwise or by Bonds taken of Persons laying down the money for Tithes at such Rates as called, and that this way of proceeding grows and increases upon Friends in many places.

Stoppage

It is therefore recommended as the Sense and Advice of this Meeting to the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to stir up Friends in their respective Meetings to Zeal and Faithfulness in this respect, that they may not consent to or connive at such Payments, Stoppages or Discountings on such Accounts, but to deal plainly & earnestly with their Relations or Neighbours who shall so pay, or others who shall so stop or discount & not discharge the Debt by crossing their Books if Tradesmen or otherwise but keep the Debt still in demand: and be as wary and carefull as they can for the future, to keep such persons as much as in them lies out of a Capacity of Stopping upon them that they may thereby discourage all such ways of proceeding, which tend to make void or lessen their Testimony and not to bring in such Stoppages as Sufferings inasmuch as they do not discharge the Debt, which if they should do, they could not allow the Stoppage and so let fall their Testimony.

Impropriate Tithes

This Meeting declares it is their Sense and Judgment that no Friend in Truth can either pay or receive Impropriate Tithes being Inconsistant with our Christian Testimony: and its desired Friends of the several Counties may be advised thereof.

1706

Tithes.

1706

1706 This Meeting understanding that notwithstanding the Judgment and Practice formerly & frequently given by this Meeting against the payment of Tithes and more particularly in the year 1703 against the payers & receivers of Tithes by any that profess the holy Truth with us, there are some few Persons who go under our Name, do yet continue not only to pay them, but some few also here & there having Estates in impropriate Tithes (which are the same in the nature & quality with the Tithes paid to the Priest) do not forbear as yet to receive them to the great dishonour of our holy profession and grief of faithfull Friends (the others have conscientiously and very honourably given up and refused them) this Meeting therefore doth now again signifie as the unanimous sense and Judgment of faithfull Friends, that for any among us in this Gospel Day to pay or receive Tithes (which are a part of the ceremonial Law belonging to the Levitical Priesthood and were abrogated and taken away by the coming and death of our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross) is directly opposite and tends to overthrow the ancient Christian Testimony of Truth against Tithes which hath been born by Friends from the beginning of our Day not only by word and Doctrine but by deep sufferings and sealed even with the Blood of some of our faithfull Brethren who have cheerfully laid down their lives by long and hard imprisonments in confirmation of that their conscientious Testimony. In the sense hereof this Meeting doth earnestly recommend to the several Quarterly and Monthly Meetings every where of Friends that they be careful and diligent to make general Observations how Friends do unite and bear up that Testimony against Tithes in their practices and if they shall find any going contrary to our Name that do either pay or receive Tithes that they use their best & utmost endeavours in the Spirit and Power of the Lord in the

exercise

Tithes.

1706 exercise of good Discernment in bearing him so far as
form convince what is amiss in any & cause all such without regard of persons to be put
out bring them to the acknowledgement & sickness of
the Truth in that particular.

And if after such tender & gentle dealing with
them any such shall continue in their unfaithfulness & opposition to the Principle & Christian prac-
tice of Friends in that case, that in the Monthly or
Quarterly meeting unto which such person shall be
reputed to belong having cleared Christian patience
& forbearance towards such & finding themselves
clear in the sight of God to manifest & declare their
sense for their unfaithfulness & opposition to
that pure Christian Testimony are unworthy to be ad-
mitted to the Meetings for Business amongst Friends
or to be received to join in the collections made by
Friends for the service of the Church of Christ &
if after that such persons shall persist in such their
unfaithfulness & opposition that then the Monthly
or Quarterly Meeting proceed further in the Lords
power to give Judgment for the clearing of Truth &
Friends as in the holy Counsel & Wisdom of
God they shall be directed & guided therein.

1721

1721 Former Advices again Recommended.

1725

1725 It is desired & earnestly recommended, that in as
much as it doth appear there is in some places a
slackness & Defficiency in bearing a faithfull Testimo-
ny against Tithes, that in any Monthly Meeting it
hath such Members after a deliberate dealing with
them in the Wisdom of Truth & the meek Spirit of the
Gospel for their help & information, Friends have recourse
for their further proceedings to the Yearly Meeting &c.

Tithes

1729

1729 It doth appear to this Meeting that Friends in divers places are under difficulty on account of Stoppages made in respect to demands for small Tithes and Church Rules so called and for illegal Seizures without Warrants on such Accounts, which are in some places made, whereby we apprehend a voluntary compliance is implied which doth tend to weaken & lay waste our Testimony and therefore this Meeting doth tenderly renew the caution and advice therein given in a Minute in the year 1703 whereunto we refer.

1730

1730 Friends are heartily desired and intreated to read and diligently peruse Anthony Pearsons great Case of Tithes, hoping it may have this good Effect, if read with a single Eye to manifest the inconsistancy of Tithes with the Gospel Dispensation.

1731

1731 Former Advices of this Meeting again recommended and particularly that in 1706.

1732

1732 Recommended to the several Quarterly & Monthly meetings tenderly to advise and earnestly to exhort Friends to be careful in bearing a faithfull Testimony against the antichristian Yoke of Tithe priests Maintenance & Church Rules so called the want whereof in some places hath tended to the uneasiness and sorrow of many Brethren, and added to the Sufferings of such as have stood faithfull in this our ancient and Christian Testimony.

1733

Tithes.

1733

1733 This Meeting observing a remissness in some places in respect to our Testimony against that antichristian yoke of Tithes, and earnest concern we Feel has been on the Minds of Friends, that all might be excited and stirred up to faithfulness therein, in Love wherewith we think necessary to put you in mind that the Zeal your Friends have have abode faithfull in their Testimony against paying Tithes Steeplehouse Rates & priests Maintenance has greatly tended to the opening the Eyes of Many not only in this but also in other Countries.

We received last year an Account from Old England where our Friends formerly are exposed to great Sufferings that a Law is made exempting them from paying either to the Maintenance of the Established Ministers or repairing of their worship Houses: and it is our belief that if all Friends here had been faithfull in their Testimony against Tithes the time of our deliverance from that Oppression would which this many years could have been never at hand, we do therefore earnestly exhort to a close concern upon that and every other Branch of our Testimony, tending to the promotion of Gospel Liberty, which it has been our concern ever since we were a people thro' manifold Sufferings to maintain. and if any weakness or unfaithfulness shall appear among the professors of Truth we hope faithfull Friends & Brethren will not be wanting to administer help and admonition in the Love and counsel of God as they shall see occasion for the restoring & strengthening of such according to the advice given by the Apostle Gal. 6. 1. Brethren if a man be overtaken in a fault ye which are Spiritual restore such an one in the spirit of meekness."

See Meetings for Discipline, page 157.

Tithes.

1734

1734 And dear Friends for the sake of those particular persons in some places who yet continue remiss in maintaining their Testimony against the Antichristian Yoke of Tithes, we think necessary to repeat the Advice given last Year, that Friends as they shall see Occasion in the Wisdom of God would admonish such, and in a Spirit of Love and meekness endeavours to help & Strengthen them & incite and stir them up to faithfulness in that Branch of your ancient Testimony.

1735

1735 And Dear Friends as it hath been the concern of this Meeting frequently to advise that Monthly Meetings should stand faithfull in their Testimony against that antichristian Yoke of Tithes so we do now renew our advice in that respect.

And we earnestly intreat the faithfull among ye to take all suitable Opportunities of endeavouring to convince such as are weak and unfaithfull the importance of our Testimony against receiving or paying Tithes, the natural tendency whereof is to obtain that Liberty wch the purest Ages of Christianity enjoyed, that is the Liberty for any Person moved by the Holy Spirit of God to preach the Doctrine of the glorious Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ freely, and of which they were not deprived till such time as great Corruptions of Doctrine and practice were found amongst the Professors of Christianity, and the civil powers were prevailed upon to meddle with the Consciences of the people which right are to be subjected to God only.

We

Tithes

1736 We cannot therefore but bless the Lord for an experimental admiring of the Comfort and Spiritual advantage which arises from such a Liberty that he was pleased to raise up our worthy Elders and give them a testimony against that antichristian Yoke making them willing in this and other Nations to suffer for that Testimony thereby shewing to the World what the Love of Christ is able to do for we believe nothing short of that Love could have enabled them to suffer the Spoil of their Goods and the long imprisonments of their Bodies, even unto Death as many of them did for their Conscientious refusal to pay Tithes and we have reason to believe that if all among us had followed their Example by abiding faithfull in this our Christian Testimony we might before this time have been in a great measure relieved from under that Oppression.

1736

1736 And dear Friends as we have ever since we were a people maintained our Christian Testimony against Tithes and forced maintenance of Ministers as contrary to the nature of the Gospel Dispensation, we cannot but repeat our earnest exhortation that Friends every where stand fast in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made them free, and beware of burthening their own Consciences by a mean Submission to an Antichristian Yoke of Bondage, but fear of Suffering & meek and quiet Spirit under temporal Inconveniencies for the sake of our Christian Testimony is one of the best proofs of our Sincerity therein and may be a means of effectually recommending unto the compassion of those whom God has placed in authority over us to whose hands he has committed the power of giving us relief and from whom it becometh us to seek it with humility and patience.

Tithes.

§ 37

§ 37 This Meeting being informed that Friends in several parts of this Nation are in the practice of calling on their Members to bring in an Account of their Sufferings for their Testimony against that antichristian Yoke of Tithes &c. and to enquire whether such as bring in no Account do stand clear in their Testimony: which having had a good Effect, it is therefore recommended, that Friends throughout the Nation fall into the said practice and if they find any deficient and persist in the same, that such Friends be dealt with pursuant to the Directions, and former
for p. 329. & p. 357. Advice of this Meeting and particularly in § 33. and those recommended therein.

You have been often reminded of the Importance of your weighty Testimony against the antichristian Yoke of Tithes, and as you are convinced in your Consciences of their inconsistency with the nature of the Gospel Dispensation, 'tis certainly your necessary Duty to act agreeable to such convictions: and if sufferings for your Testimony should be the consequence of your Obedience therein, 'twill become you, after the Example of the primitive Christians, cheerfully to submit & to take joyfully the spoiling of your Goods, that so you may preserve a Conscience void of Offence towards God, and at the same time by your christian meekness in innocent Deportment, give reasonable evidence of your sincerity to Men.

See Trading, page 315.

Tithes.

1738

1738 We therefore tenderly exhort all the professors the Truth to watchfulness and Zeal that this Branch of our Christian Testimony be not Lain waste by connivance or private agreement with Priests or Impropriators, but that all abide patient under that Testimony which the Lord hath called us to bear not doubting but that the gradual progress of real Christianity will at length prevail to the removal of ye Yoke so directly contrary to the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free.

1742

1742 See Questions page 217.

1744

1744 See Questions. page 218.

1750

1750 Whereas it appears that the Method of taking the Priests Demands, without Warrant or due form of Law prevails more in some Places than heretofore: Friends are therefore intreated to bear much upon their Guard as possible against the Introduction of any practices that may tend to encourage unfaithfulness or Collusion, a Disposition altogether unbecoming the Nobility of Truth and inconsistent with the uprightness it requires.

Tombstones.

Rule Concerning Tombstones.

1787

1787 This Meeting being informed that Friends in some places have gone into the vain and empty Custom of erecting Monuments over the Dead Bodies of Friends, by Stones, Inscriptions, Tombstones &c and being very desirous Friends should keep as commendable plainness and simplicity in this as well as other respects, it's therefore the Advice of this Meeting that all such Monuments as are already in being over dead Bodies of Friends should be removed as much as may be with discretion & conveniency: and that none be any where made or set up by or over the dead Bodies of Friends or others in Friends Burying places for time to come.

Trading.

Advices Concerning Trading.

1675

1675 Advised, that none Trade beyond their Ability, nor Trade beyond their Compass and that they use few Words in Dealings, and keep their Words in all things, lest they bring through their forwardness Reflection upon the precious Truth of God.

1688

1688 Advice not to launch forth into Trade and Worldly Business beyond what they can manage honourably and with reputation among the Sons of Men, and so that they may keep their Words with all. Men: and that their Yea may prove Yea indeed, and their Nay may be Nay indeed, for whatever is otherwise cometh of the Evil One: and such who make themselves guilty by thus dishonouring God and the holy profession of his Name and Truth such are for Judgment by the Truth & the judgment of Truth ought to be set over them that the Truth and those that abide and Walk in it may be clear of their Iniquities.

1692

1692 It is advised and earnestly desired that the payment of just Debts be not delayed by any professing Truth beyond the time promised and agreed upon, nor Complaints given of Complaint to those they deal with by their Backwardness of payment where no time is limited: nor any be entangling themselves with too much Trading and Commerce beyond their Capacities to discharge in good Conscience towards all Men: and that all Friends concerned be very carefull not to contract extravagant Debts to the endangering the wronging Widows and their Families, which cometh to the grieving the hearts of the upright. Not to break their promises Covenants or Agreements in their buying selling or any other Dealings: Not to be ingaging themselves or others in suffering Losses contentions or Reproach to Truth and Friends.

And

Trading

1692 And it is advised that all Friends that are entering into Trade, or that are in Trade and have not stock sufficient of their owne to answer the Trade they aime at be very cautious of runninge themselves into Debts without advising with some of their ancient experienced Friends among whome they live, and more especially such Trading as have its dependance on the Elections

1697

1697 See Plainness, page 203

1702

1702 We fervently desire that all all Professing the blessed Truth with us, be very carefull to keep their Words & promises by paying their just Debts without unreasonable delay, and do justice to all Men for righteousness Sake, and prevent the great Reproach & Scandal of defrauding any persons by breaking in their Debts or otherwise injuring any.

1703

1703 Advised that all Friends be weighty and circumspect in their Conduct and management of their outward affairs and carefull to keep within Compass of their own Substance to prevent failures & Breaches

1708

1708 To prevent the great wounds & Reproaches which any professing Truth may bring on it, by breaking in other Mens Debts we remind you to exercise a Godly Care therein & much depends upon you being timely Cautious to any such, as either to withhold their promises or delay the paymant of their just Debts or otherwise render themselves suspected.

1709

Trading.

1709

1709 Truth leads all who faithfully follow it to do right & Justice to all, and not deprive or wrong any one in any way of Commerce, Trade, Trust, or Dealing, much less to put any abuse upon the Government &c. See Kings & Governours, page 547-548

Also the advice in 1703 again recommended.

1710

1710 Considering the great Suffering that hath been brought upon Truth & faithfull Friends, by divers professing Truth amongst us breaking their Words, promises and Obligations to the great Injury of others, by not paying their just Debts in due time and the sad Consequences thereof and reproaches brought thereby notwithstanding our great care and many warnings given for prevention thereof, which being too many to recite here, we refer you to the Advice formerly given by our ancient Friend & Brother G.F. to Shopkeepers Merchants Factors or any other Friends, which this Meeting hath thought proper to recommend unto you in fresh and Advise that it be read in your Quarterly & Monthly Meetings as you may see Occasion at least once a Year.

1720

1720 Let all Promises and Obligations for payment of just Debts be truly kept and performed.

1721

1721 It is earnestly desired, that all Friends in place be very carefull to avoid all inordinate pursuit after the things of this World, by such ways and means as depend too much on the uncertain probabilities of hazardous enterprises but rather labour to content themselves with such as plain way and manner of living as is most agreeable to the self denying Principle of Truth which we profess, and which is most conducive to that Seasonableness of mind requisite in a religious Conduct through this troublesome World.

And the Advice in 1710 repeated.

1727

1727 It is earnestly desired that all Friends be very carefull not to run into larger Trading & Business than their Capacities and Abilities can well answer: and that they may frequently inspect their Circumstances, and do not live at an expence beyond them: and if through adverse Accidents any should fail in paying their just Debts, and shall after his or her compositon with his or her Creditors be so far Blessed and prospered in their Affairs as to be capable of paying their Deficiencies. It is our earnest Desire and Advice of this Meeting that they do not omit the same it being agreeable to the Command of the Gospel, & common Justice among Men.

See Negroes, page 189.

1728

1728 Forasmuch as repeated occasion hath been given of great Grief and Affliction to Friends which hath caused the way of Truth to be evil spoken of, by the launching out of divers under our Profession too far into the affairs of this World to their own hurt, the reproach of the Society, and wronging other Persons of their just properties: we recommend great Care, & Circumspection to all Friends in this Respect and in particular do refer to the Advices in the Yearly Epistles 1710 & 1721 and last Year and do desire Friends at their several monthly meetings, to use their utmost Endeavour, by a watchfull Eye to prevent as much as in them lies, all such unjust practices & Scandals.

1729

Trading

1729

1729 Notwithstanding many are the wholesome Advices, which in former Years have been recommended from this Meeting exhorting to Faithfullness & Perseverance in all Godliness and Honesty yet to our Grief we find there are fresh Instances of great Slightness in coming up in the practice thereof particularly by some Injurious dispanding their Creditors of their just Debts, and not performing their Word and Promise which have Occasioned grievous Complaints wherefore we desire and intreat when any such Occasion of Reproach shall be, that whatsoever Monthly Meeting within the Compass whereof it may happen, they do not fail speedily to set righteous Judgment upon the Head of the Transgressor.

1730

1730 See Meetings for Discipline, page 555-556.

1731

1731 See Conversation, page 351-355.

1732

1732 We find it our Duty to remind our respective Members of the remarkable uprightness & honesty of our Friends in the beginning in their Commerce and Conversation how exact were they in performing their Word & Promises, without evasive excuses and insincere Dealings How careful not to involve themselves in Business which they understood not nor had Stock of their own to manage How circumspect not to contract greater Debts than they were able to pay in due time: Which brought great Credit and reputation to our religious Society; but with Sorrow we discover that contrary to their Example and the repeated Advices formerly given by this Meeting particularly in the Years 1729 & 1731 against an inordinate pursuit after Riches, too many have launched into Trade and Business above their Stocks and Capacities by which unjustifiable proceedings & high living they have involved themselves and Families in Trouble and ruin, and brought considerable loss upon others to the great reproach of our holy Profession.

We

Trading

1732 We therefore recommend to Friends in their respective Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to have a Watchfull Eye over all their Members and where they observe any deficients in discharging their Contracts and just Debts in due time, so as they give reasonable suspicion of unfairness or Negligence that Friends do earnestly advise them to a suitable Care & Necessary Inspection into their Circumstances in order that they may be helped and if any proceed contrary to such advice, and by their failure bring open Scandal & Reproach on the Society that those Friends justifiably may & ought to testify against such Offenders.

1735

1735 Again dear Friends we esteem it our duty to renew our former Advices, that Friends every where take diligent care to prevent, as much as possible, professing with us & professing their Creditors of their just to the great wounding and reproach of our holy Religion by timely admonishing and cautioning all those of our Society who by Negligent management, and breaking their Words & promises give reasonable cause of Suspecion that their Circumstances are desperate, advising all such to inspect their Accounts and give up their Effects to them in order to make the best they can to their Creditors which will most conduce to their own peace & the good reputation of our Christian Society; but if any Ambition or desire of Esteem in the World shall cause themselves to be insolvent, after having been plainly cautioned & dealt with, according to the Nature of the Offence and pursuant to the Advices of this Meeting in the years 1728 & 1732 to which we refer you then the Society will justly be clear of such arising from the misconduct of such.

L

1736 A Care of the Value we earnestly recommend not only to Monthly and Quarterly Meetings, but also that Friends in their private Capacity watch over, advise and caution one another when ever they observe any real Occasion for it.

1737

1737 For some Reproach and Scandal have been brought upon our religious Society by some bearing our Name failing, that of unfavering their just Debts and others professing with us being unfaithfull in bearing a Testimony against the Antichristian Practices, notwithstanding the several wholesome Advices given from this Meeting to the contrary: we declare it to be the Sense & Judgment of this Meeting, that no person who shall fail as aforesd ought to be admitted to act in Meetings for Business or joine with Friends in collecting for the poor and the Service of the Church, untill they have made satisfaction to the Monthly Meeting they belong to, and done what is in their power, to take off the Reproach they have by their imprudent Conduct brought on our Christian profession.

See Conversation, page 57.

1738

1738 See Conversation, page 58.

Wills.

No 50 Concerning Wills.

1695

1695 Edvised that care be taken in each Monthly Meeting that Friends who have Estates to dispose of by will or otherwise, be particularly advised to make their Wills or settle their Estates in due time to prevent the Inconveniencies, Loss & Trouble that may follow upon their Relations & Friends, and injury to the poor thro' their dying Intestate: Delays & Omissions in this Case having been very prejudicial in divers respects.

1695

1695 The Above repeated, with this Addition. Making such Wills in due time will shorten no Mans Days; but the Omission or delay thereof has proved very pernicious to many and injurious to Youths.

1696

1696 See post page 215.

1703

1703 Knowing how quickly many are removed by Death, it is weightily recommended, that all Friends in time of Health & strength of Judgmt take care timely to make their Wills, & to dispose of their Substance as in Justice & Wisdom may be agreeable to their Satisfaction.

1705

1705 The Advice of 1703 repeated

1716

1716 See Orphans, page 96.

Wills

1710 This Meeting recommends the visiting the Sick amongst Friends timely and see that they make their Wills in due time.

1713 Desired that Friends will take care that none do unadvisedly bring themselves or others into Sufferings by undertaking Trusts or Executorships where they cannot legally discharge that Trust.

1715 Advised that Trustees & Executors concerned in Wills and Settlements do take especial care that they faithfully discharge their respective Trusts according to the intents of the Donors and Testators: and that all charitable Gifts, Legacies, Bequests & Settlements of Estates by Will or Deed intended and given for the use of the poor, the Aged, the Impotent, or putting poor Friends Children to Education or Apprenticeships may not be appropriated or converted to any other Use than such as the Donors & Testators have directed and enjoined them by legal Settlement, Will or Testament.

Yearly Meeting

1658 Concerning the Yearly Meet

1672

1672 Yearly Meeting compleated

Agreed, that one or two of each County, that are concerned in the publick Service of the Truth in each respective County do come up to this Meeting once a Year, to be chosen or elected by the Quarterly Meetings of each County respectively for that purpose.

And the publick Labours to be here in the same Week on the Second Day at Even at farthest.

That for the better ordering managing & regulating of the publick Affairs of Friends relating to the Truth and the Service thereof there be a general Meeting of Friends held at London once a Year in the Week called Whitsun Week to consist of Six Friends for the City of London.

To be held at London in the Whitsun Week

Three for the City of Bristol

Two for the Town of Colchester. And

Representatives to be chosen

one or two from each County in England & Wales to be chosen at their respective Quarterly Meetings next preceding the said Week called Whitsun Week and to be in London on the second Day of that Week.

Many Friends that Labour in the Truth as have freedom thereunto may be present at the said Meeting.

Ministers & others

All others except such as are nominated by the Quarterly Meetings are desired to forbear coming to the said General Meeting except such Friends as they when met together shall see meet to admit.

The said Yearly Meeting of Representatives to continue till further Order.

1673

1673

Agreed that the general Meeting consisting of two Friends from each Quarterly Meeting about publick affairs appointed the 12th of the third Mo 1673 till further order be discontinued till Friends in Gods Wisdom shall see further Occasion.

Yearly Meeting of Representatives discontinued

That the General Meeting of Friends who Labour in the Work of the Ministry to continue as formerly appointed.

1673

Yearly Meeting.

1677

1677 revived

It is agreed that the Yearly Meeting of one or two from each County, as formerly agreed upon at a Gen[e]ral Meeting in London upon the 29th of the third Mo 1672 appointed Yearly to meet about the publick affairs of Friends, some time in the Week called Whitsun Week untill further Order, and afterwards agreed to be discontinued from the 25th of the third Month 1673 till Friends in Gods Wisdom should see further Occasion for it to be again revived and begun this time twelve Months and then Friends to advise about the continuance thereof as they in Gods Counsel shall see Occasion.

1678

1678 Suffrings Information upon

It is the Desire of this Meeting that you would nominate one or two Friends to come up the next Year at the Usual time for the Service of Truth & that they bring with them the State of the Sufferings of the ensuing Year not before sent up and whatsoever else you desire Information or Assistance in, let it be writ and subscribed by some of your Meeting in the Name of the Rest, the end of this Meeting not being limited to the Case of Sufferings but intended for the more General service of the Truth & Body of Friends in all these things wherein we may be capable to serve one another in Love.

The end of the meeting

1679

1679

Agreed that Friends be desired in their Quarterly meetings respectively to take care to appoint some faithfull Friend or Friends to attend the Meeting this time twelve Months as formerly.

NB. Since this time it has annually continued

Yearly Meeting.

1681

1681 Wales — Yearly Meeting in Wales agreed to be held about a Month before that of London.

1688 &c.

1688 1690 1691 — See Representatives anno 1688 1690, 1691 pa 269.

1694

1694 Bristol — Agreed that the Friends of the West of England may have a Yearly Meeting for Worship at Bristol.

1695

1695 Intent of Yearly meetings &c — The good & blessed Intent & end of this & all our Assemblies, is, with the Lord's Assistance for his Honour in the promoting & maintaining of our Christian Society & Religion in Life & practice in all its parts & Branches thereof.

1696

1696 — See Epistles, page 305.

1697

1697 Women publick Friends — Ordered, that such faithfull Women Friends as have a publick Testimony, that are in the City at the time of the Yearly Meeting may have their Liberty to sit with their Ministering Brethren at their second Days morning Yearly Meeting for Worship.

Yearly Meeting

1698

1698 Yearly Meeting

1698 A Proposition that Friends may have a Yearly Meeting for Worship only for their Comfort & to prepare & fit one another to bow and pray for the Counties of Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire & Cheshire and any other neighbouring Counties that are joyned with them consented to until this Meeting shall otherwise direct and upon Condition that it may not interfere with the Service & power of this Meeting 1699.

1699

1699 Declared that it was and is the intent of this Meeting that the Meetings which are or shall be held yearly in any of the Counties or places in England distinct from this Meeting be only from Year to Year entered subject to the Advice of this Meeting.

1700

1700 See Representatives page 305.

1706

1706 See Questions page 248.

1707

1707 Agreed that when this Meeting directs a Warning Meeting or any other Meeting to be that henceforth the said Meeting shall be prepared to give an Account to the next Yearly Meeting.

1709

1709 Representatives not to go out of Town before the Meeting ends. See Representatives p 270. And see Meetg for Discipline page 161.

1710

1710 It is the Desire and agreement of this Meeting that the Business & Concerns thereof be solidly in the fear of God managed and carryed on without contention or Straining one with ys for Words, & in a

Orderly managed Meeting

pertine

1710 pertinent Expressions to the matter in hand as may be for Expedition of the affair thereof without Loss of time or any ways disordering the Meeting: but one at a time Speaking and standing up: that all things may be done decently and in good order.

1718

1718 Friends are reminded that the Intent and holy
the intent and designe of Yearly Meetings
designe of our Annual Assemblies, in their first constitution was for a good and weighty oversight and care of the affairs of the Churches pertaining to our holy profession & Christian Christian communion. that good order true Love, Unity & concord may be faithfully followed and maintained among all of us as a peculiar people called and chosen out of the World, and the Error & Corruptions thereof, knowing also that sincere Love & Union in General will be a great cause of Truths prosperity among our selves and of the prevalency thereof over the World, and the Spirit of it all & seriously considering we sincerely desire & humbly hope that God will graciously please more & more to put into the hearts of Friends & Brethren to be Zealously concerned that Universal Love true Union peace & Concord be followed and Maintained in all the Churches of Christ, and all the Contrary as Enmity, Division, Discord and Strife watched against and shall our power, that the Grace & peace of our God may prevail and rule in all our hearts more and more whereunto we are called in one Body that the God of Love & peace may be with us for ever, which is the earnest desire & travel of the Soul of the faithfull.

1719

1719 Advised that the several Meetings do commit the Epistles of the Yearly Meeting, whether printed or Written to the Custody of some suitable and able person, to whom Friends may have recourse as Occasion requires: or they may be read in Meetings at suitable Opportunities.

See Meetings for Discipline pa 153.

1720

Yearly Meeting.

1720

1720 By a proposal from the Yearly Meeting in Bristol held the 16th & 17th Days of the third Month last sent by Samuel Bownas & Joseph Tiddle.

Circular Yearly Meeting in the western Counties.

Desiring Liberty from this Meeting to set up a Circular Yearly Meeting for Worship in the Counties of Cornwall, Devon, Gloucester, Hereford, Somerset, Wilts, Worcester & Bristol the first Circular Meeting to begin the second first Day in the seventh Month next coming at Bristol.

The said proposal being taken into consideration it is agreed that the said Circular Meeting may be held Provided it be with these Restrictions, first; that the Meeting be for Worship only, and secondly that the time of holding the said Circular Yearly Meeting be in the Seventh Month in every Year.

1731

1731 See Conversations. page. 54

1732

1732 Papers to be signed

It is agreed that all papers to this Meeting from Mo[nthly] Yearly Quarterly or Monthly Meeting to be Signed in such Meetings.

Choosing Cashiers

It is agreed that for the future the Meeting for Sufferings shall nominate six Friends out of the same Members to this Yearly Meeting, in case for the Meeting to chuse three out of them in case of those who are to go out, to be Cashiers for this Meeting Stock and that the persons so nominated be such as Members of the said Meeting.

Yearly Meeting.

1733

1733 method for chosing Clerk

It is agreed, that in order to prevent Debate in the Yearly Meeting respecting the choice of an Clerk, that the several Meetings that are Members of this Yearly Meeting be divided into five Districts as follows viz:

North

Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland, Cumberland, Westmorland, Lancashire, Cheshire, Scotland.

South

London, Middlesex, Surry, Sussex, Kent, Hampshire, Berkshire.

East

Essex, Colchester, Suffolk, Norfolk, Norwich, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire & Ely, Huntingdonshire.

West. Dorsetshire

Cornwall, Devonshire, Somersetshire, Bristol, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, North Wales, South Wales.

Midland

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Warwickshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hartfordshire, Nottinghamshire, Staffordshire.

And that the Clerk be annually chosen by one of the said Districts in the Course and order that they do now stand.

And that as the Clerk for the present Year is of the Northern District so next year one to be chosen by the Friends of the Southern and the year following by the

East

Yearly Meeting

1733 East and the next succeeding Year by the West and the Year after that by the midland District: and so one in a continual Rotation until the same shall be altered by the Yearly Meeting

And in order that the Election of a Clerk as aforesaid may be made in a convenient manner, we think it will be proper that the Meetings composing the District in whom the Election for that year doth fall be first called over and the Names of the Representatives of such Meetings be first entered and that they there immediately retire into the Chamber, in order to a Nomination of a proper person to propose to the meeting for their Approbation as a Clerk for that Year.

Advice concerning deputing proper Persons to attend the Yearly Meeting: See Representatives page 270

1735

1735 Proposals from Monthly Meetings

This Meeting desires that all propositions from any Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly, or Yearly Meetings to this meeting be delivered in writing signed by Order of such Meeting.

1735 Morning Meeting

Ordered that the seven Days Morning Meeting which precedes every Yearly meeting, be only for first of Publick Friends and such Friends as shall be pursuant to the minute of 1727. appointed to sit in the Morning meeting of Ministers and other meeting of Ministering Friends.

Conclusion of the Meeting

It is agreed that immediately after the finishing of the Business of this meeting there be a Publick Opportunity for Ministering Friends both Members of the Yearly Meeting to speak what may be upon their Minds to mutual Comfort & Edification

1735 and it is Ordered, that at such times no person be permitted to stay in the Meeting except Publick Friends Representatives & Correspondents, after which it is agreed that a publick parting Meeting be held

1736

1736 Ordered that all Letters directed to the Yearly Meeting except from such Meetings as regularly correspond therewith, be perused by a Committee who are to consider & report whether the same be proper to be read in the Meeting or not.

Letters

1737

1742 See Queries. page 284

1745

1745 See Appeals page 384

1746

1746 See Representatives, page 271.

1750

1750 This Meeting observing with great Concern a Defect in divers Counties in not duly attending this Meeting, some being represented but by one Friend and one without any; cannot but strongly recommend an observance of the minute in 1728 which directs that not less than four Friends should be appointed for each County that in case of Sickness or other Accident there may be a sufficient Number to answer the Service of the Meeting, by the want of which the Business is too often obstructed.

See Representatives, pe 271

1760.

1760 Att the Yearly Meeting held in Newport in Rhode Island it was agreed, and concluded that the following method for constituting Meetings of Ministers & Elders should be here added.

1st Month

1760 Method of constituting meetings of Ministers & Elders.

1st & 2d. That in each Monthly Meeting some Elder, of either or both Sexes be appointed for each particular Meeting as Elders to have the oversight of the Ministry and to advise and counsel both the Ministers & others who travel amongst them as they in the Wisdom of Truth may see necessary.

2. That the Ministers in Unity & Elders so appointed within the Compass of each Monthly Meeting meet by themselves once in three months & wait to feel their Minds seasoned with the Virtue of Truth & then read the Queries and make diligent enquiry into the State of their members & form such Answers thereto as appears agreeable to their Rules, the said answers to be signed by their Clerk and some Friends appointed to attend the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers & Elders therewith, where the Queries are again to be read and answered, and at the Quarterly Meeting preceding the Yearly Meeting that general answers in Writing be drawn up and transmitted from thence to the Yearly Meeting of Ministers & Elders by Friends appointed to attend the same & that the ministers in Unity & Elders appointed as above directed shall be only proper members of said Meetings.

3. That where any Friends come forth by way of publick Ministry that the Elders & those of experience have a tender Care over them and after a suitable time of trial if their Conversation be clean & blameless & Friends are convinced that the Lord hath called them to that weighty service that there the Monthly Meeting to which they belong do recommend them to the Quarterly Meeting of Ministers (by a Minute signed by the Clerk) and that they then may be set in the Meetings of Ministers & Elders.